LANTERN CITY™

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LANTERN CITY™

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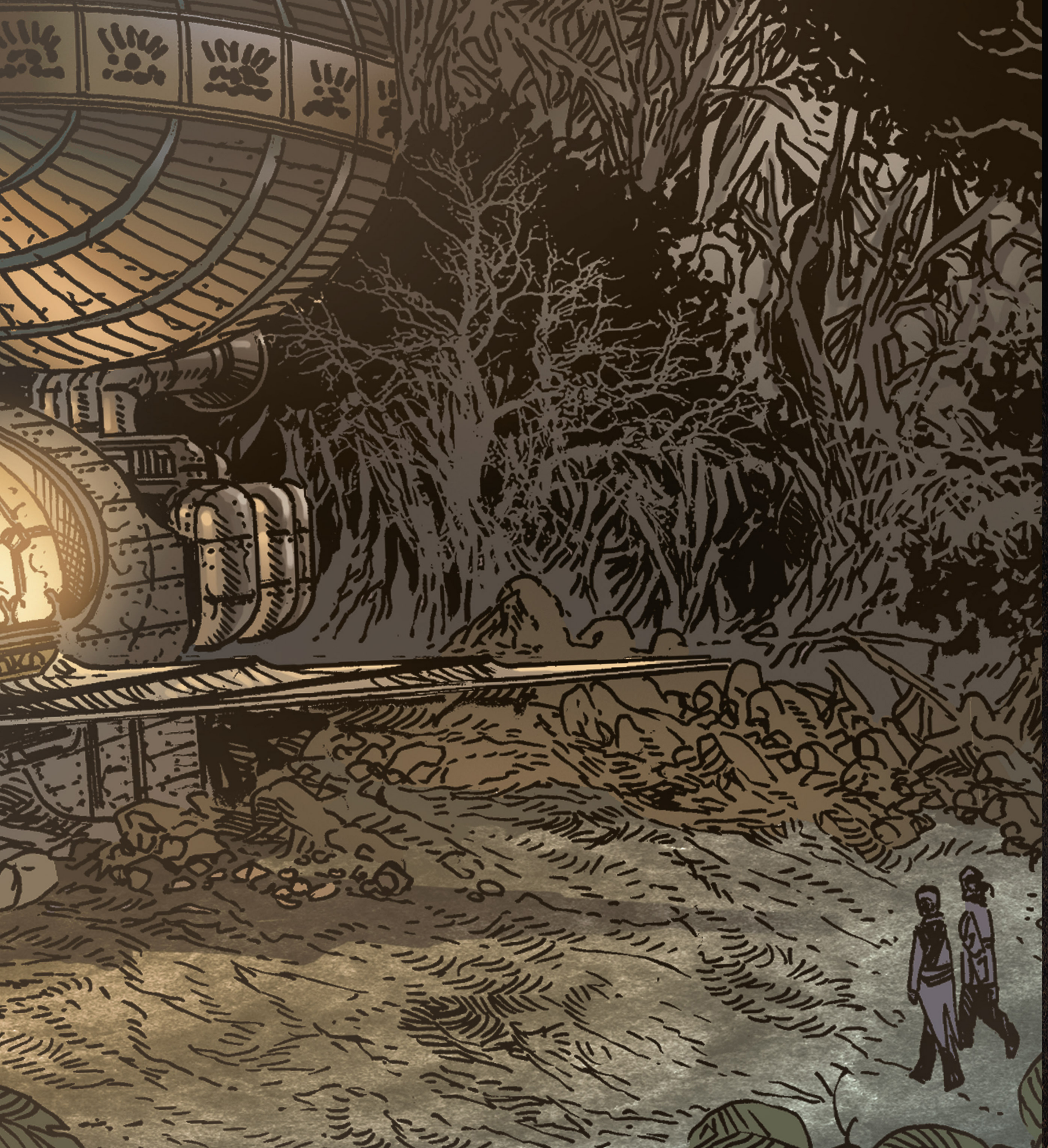

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CHAPTER NINE

BLACKBIN FOREST.

THE FORTACHE.

I'VE THOUGHT FOR MY ENTIRE LIFE THAT THEY WERE DEAD. I WAS **TOLD** THEY WERE DEAD. WE ALL WERE.

AND I WAS SO PROUD OF MY FORTACHE HERITAGE, BUT STANDING IN FRONT OF THESE PEOPLE, **MY** PEOPLE... I SUDDENLY FEEL LIKE A FRAUD.

THIS IS YOUR ARMY? THESE PEOPLE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH LANTERN CITY.

WHICH MAKES THEM THE ONLY ARMY THAT CAN TRULY BE TRUSTED.

BESIDES, IT WAS THEIR CHOICE TO HELP ME ERADICATE PONT'S MEN. NOT YOURS.

OF COURSE NOT, I JUST--THEY'RE ALL SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD, KILLIAN.

WELL, IT'S A GOOD THING THEY DON'T KNOW THAT. ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU.

CHIEF LADE! IT'S ALWAYS AN HONOR TO BE IN YOUR PRESENCE.

DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT HONOR. YOU WERE DUE DAYS AGO.

WELL, SOMEONE TRIED TO KILL ME AND SOMEONE ELSE TRIED TO MARRY ME. BUT BOTH PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN HANDLED.

AND WHO IS THIS?

SANDER IS MY GUARD, AND A FORTACHE LIVING IN LANTERN CITY.

PROOF THAT MY PROMISES CAN BE MADE REAL, AND HOPEFULLY, THE REASSURANCE YOU REQUESTED.

I'M NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS BOY IS FORTACHE JUST BECAUSE SOME CITY MAN CLAIMS IT'S SO.

YONO, STOP! WE ARE NOT HERE FOR THIS.

LET US DISCUSS THIS MORE, MR. GREY. OUR ATTENDANTS CAN TAKE CARE OF YOUR SHIPMENT.

OF COURSE.

TAKE THEM TO THE SHIP, SANDER.

THIS FEELS WRONG. ALL OF IT.

I AM ARAH, BY THE WAY, AND THIS...

...

...AND THIS UNCOOPERATIVE *SEMARAT* IS YONO.

I'M SANDER.

IT IS GOOD TO MEET YOU, SANDER.

IT IS GOOD TO KNOW A FORTACHE CAN INTEGRATE INTO THE CITY.

I'M SORRY, WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE GIVING YOU?

HA! WHAT DO YOU THINK AN ARMY NEEDS, SEMARAT?

WEAPONS.

HEY!

THIS MAY BE YOUR SHIPMENT, BUT IT ISN'T YOUR SHIP!

IT'S NOT YOURS, EITHER.

WE'VE DONE THIS BEFORE. *WITHOUT* YOU. SO HELP, OR STAY OUT OF OUR WAY.

STACK THEM IN THREES AND MOVE QUICKLY.

WE HAVE MUCH TO DO TODAY.

SANDER. COULD YOU HELP ME?

THEY'RE A BIT TOO HEAVY FOR ME TO TAKE BOTH.

I--OF COURSE.

DON'T MIND YONO TOO MUCH. HE'S JUST ANXIOUS TO SEE OUR DEAL FINALLY CLOSED.

THE DEAL TO ATTACK LANTERN CITY?

IT'S NOT REALLY ATTACKING. KILLIAN RULES LANTERN CITY, AND WE'RE HELPING HIM PURGE THESE PONT BANDITS FROM HIS RIGHTFUL REALM.

OKAY, BUT WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF IT?

WHAT YOU HAVE.

WE GET TO LIVE IN THE CITY.

LIKE YOU.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE. LANTERN CITY ALREADY HAS MORE MOUTHS THAN IT CAN FEED.

ADDING AN ARMY'S WORTH OF FORTACHE WOULD MEAN STARVATION FOR US ALL.

HOW COULD KILLIAN NOT REALIZE THAT?

ARE THESE ALL FROM--?

YES. GREY HAS BROUGHT THEM ALL TO US OVER THE LAST YEAR.

IS THIS WHAT HE'S BEEN BRINGING YOU EVERY TIME?

YES. KILLIAN HAS BEEN MOST GENEROUS.

NO, HE HASN'T.

*THESE WEAPONS ARE OLD, USELESS ONE-SHOT RIFLES. THEY'D NEED THIS MANY JUST TO STAND A **CHANCE** OF OVERTHROWING PONT.*

YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH US USING YOUR WEAPONS?

...AMMUNITION. DO YOU HAVE BULLETS?

A FEW. GREY IS GIVING US CRATES OF BULLETS WHEN WE REACH YOUR CITY.

BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR TALKING. WE STILL NEED TO HUNT.

ALL FORTACHE HUNT, SEMARAT.

THESE PEOPLE WILL BE MASSACRED IF THEY STAND UP TO PONT.

I'LL BE MASSACRED IF I TELL THEM THAT AND KILLIAN DISCOVERS IT.

YOU MUST BE ANXIOUS TO GET BACK TO YOUR CITY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO HUNT YOUR FOOD DOWN BEFORE YOU EAT IT.

NO, TINNED FOOD DOESN'T GET TOO FAR.

BUT IT DOESN'T TASTE VERY GOOD, EITHER.

MAYBE NOT AS GOOD AS GALRABBIT OR KORBEAR, BUT BETTER THAN AIR.

DON'T RUSTLE SO MUCH. TO HUNT, YOU MUST BLEND IN.

SEE, THERE!

ONE SHOT TO THE HEAD KILLS THEM.

DON'T MISS. YONO WILL NEVER LET YOU LIVE IT DOWN.

YOU'RE NOT TOO BAD A SHOT.

I TRY. IT'S NICE OUT HERE, FRESH AIR AND SUN. I FEEL HEALTHIER JUST BEING HERE.

HOW MANY MORE DO WE NEED?

TO BE SAFE, WE NEED TWELVE GALRABBITS.

IN TOTAL?

HA, NO! TWELVE *EACH!*

THIS AREA HAS NOTHING. WE HAVE TO MOVE NORTH, MAYBE FIVE MILES.

KILLING ONE GALRABBIT DOES NOT MAKE YOU A HUNTER. OR A FORTACHE.

SO WHAT DO I NEED TO KILL TO EARN YOUR APPROVAL?

HOW ABOUT A KORBEAR?

WILL ONE SHOT TO THE HEAD KILL THAT THING, TOO?

WHA--

THE KORBEAR IS THE GREATEST POWER IN BLACKBIN.

BUT THESE ARE THE WEAPONS YOU WANT TO FIGHT PONT WITH. IF THEY CAN'T KILL AN ANIMAL, HOW CAN THEY WIN A WAR?

IT'S--IT'S NOT--

IT'S NOT THE GUN THAT'S THE PROBLEM. IT'S YOUR AIM.

LET'S MOVE TO THE EAST.

WE HAVE A LOT OF HUNTING AND LITTLE DAYLIGHT LEFT.

WHEN I USED TO WORK THOSE ENDLESS SHIFTS IN THE FIELDS, I BARELY HAD THE ENERGY TO PLAY WITH RENNIE.

BUT THEY STILL DO...

...I CAN'T LET KILLIAN TAKE THAT FROM THEM.

GALRABBIT LEGS AND STEWED YELLOW BERRIES. IT'S NOT LIKE THE FOOD YOU'RE USED TO, BUT--

YOU'RE RIGHT; IT'S BETTER. THANK YOU.

ARAH. YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME.

THE FORTACHE...YOU NEED TO BE CAREFUL WITH KILLIAN. WHAT HE'S PROMISING ISN'T EXACTLY TRUE.

SANDER, WE KNOW IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY, BUT NEITHER IS HOW WE LIVE NOW.

I HAD A HUSBAND AND DAUGHTER. THEY MADE ME SO HAPPY.

THEY'RE DEAD NOW.

ARAH...

NO, LET ME SPEAK. THEY GOT SICK AT THE SAME TIME. THE SICKNESS TOOK THEM SO QUICKLY.

THE FIRST TIME KILLIAN CAME, HE BROUGHT A MEDICINE THAT CURES THAT DISEASE.

MY DAUGHTER, ONJA, WOULD BE FIFTEEN NOW.

EVERY DAY, I THINK ABOUT WHAT SHE'D LOOK LIKE AND ACT LIKE, IF SHE HAD JUST GOTTEN SICK TWO YEARS LATER.

I OWE IT TO THEM TO MAKE SURE WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FAMILY DOESN'T HAPPEN TO ANYONE ELSE'S.

BUT, ARAH. JUST BECAUSE HE *CAN* HEAL YOU DOESN'T MEAN HE ALWAYS WILL.

"YES, THERE'S MEDICINE, FOR THOSE AT THE TOP.

"THERE'S MONEY AND FOOD, TOO.

"BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE **BOTTOM,** ARAH.

"THERE'S NO MEDICINE, NO FOOD, NO LIGHT AT THE BOTTOM OF LANTERN CITY.

"THERE'S BARELY AIR FOR SOME.

"THERE WAS BARELY AIR FOR ME."

WE HAVE TO TRY.

...

THEN DO IT.

TAKE THE GUNS AND GET OUT OF HERE. GET AS FAR AWAY AS YOU CAN.

KILLIAN DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ANYONE BUT HIMSELF. HE'S GIVEN YOU JUST ENOUGH FIREPOWER TO TAKE OUT HIS ENEMIES BEFORE *YOU* DIE, TOO.

BUT...WE NEED THE CITY--

THAT'S THE TRAP, ARAH. KILLIAN CONTROLS THE ENTIRE CITY, AND HE'S GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU NEVER GET IT.

HE DOESN'T CONTROL *YOU.*

WE *NEED* THE CITY, SANDER. CAN WE COUNT ON YOU TO HELP AT LEAST SOME OF US HAVE A CHANCE?

ARAH! ARAH, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

I WONDER IF I SHOULD RUN.

MAYBE THE FORTACHE WILL KILL ME BEFORE KILLIAN CAN.

PLEASE, LET THEM KILL ME BEFORE KILLIAN CAN.

BUT LIKE I KEEP REALIZING...I NEVER KNOW WHAT'S COMING NEXT.

SANDER! GET READY, WE HAVE TO GET MOVING.

THE CHIEF AND I HAVE FINALLY REACHED AN AGREEMENT. YOU SEALED THE DEAL.

THINGS COULDN'T BE BETTER. THIS ENTIRE PLAN WILL NOW SUCCEED BECAUSE OF *YOU.*

WHY?

THE FORTACHE HAD THEIR RESERVATIONS BEFORE. IT'S THEIR WAY.

BUT NOW THAT THEY KNOW MY SECOND-IN-COMMAND IS ONE OF THEM, THEY CAN TRUST ME.

YES, YOU HAVE IMPRESSED ARAH, AND THAT IS NOT AN EASY THING TO DO.

YOU AND KILLIAN ARE MEN WHO CAN TRULY HELP OUR PEOPLE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO JOINING YOU.

I KNOW THE FORTACHE CAN COUNT ON YOU, SANDER. I HOPE, WHEN WE GET TO THE CITY, IT IS *YOU* WE ARE FIGHTING BESIDE.

OF COURSE. HE WOULD BE HONORED.

COME ALONG, SANDER.

LANTERN CITY IS UNDER SIEGE. WE HAVE PREPARATIONS TO MAKE.

WE'VE BEEN FLYING FOR HOURS. IT FEELS LIKE DAYS.

BUT I NEED EVERY MOMENT TO PROCESS WHAT HAPPENED.

I BETRAYED KILLIAN TO THE FORTACHE, WHO NOW EXPECT ME TO LEAD THEM AGAINST HIM IF PUSH COMES TO SHOVE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR PEOPLE? ARE THEY EVERYTHING YOU IMAGINED THEM TO BE?

I GREW UP IN THE DEPTHS. NOTHING IN MY LIFE IS WHAT I IMAGINED, SIR.

I HAVE AN ARMY THAT WILL BE WELCOMED INTO THE CITY GATES BY KILLIAN HIMSELF. BUT I NEED A PLAN IF WE'RE GOING TO SURVIVE THIS.

BUT YOU HAVE AN IMAGINATION! YOU CAN'T GO THROUGH YOUR LIFE HEARING ABOUT YOUR FORTACHE ANCESTRY AND NEVER IMAGINE WHAT THEY LOOKED LIKE.

PLEASE, SANDER. DON'T PLAY STUPID FOR ME.

THEY NEED ME TO OUTMANEUVER KILLIAN GREY HIMSELF.

I'M SORRY, I JUST--THIS IS ALL VERY--

--RISIERE. PERFECT. I WANTED YOU TO SEE THIS PLACE.

DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE VILLAGE OF RISIERE?

NO, SIR. SHOULD I?

PROBABLY NOT. ITS NAME HAS BEEN WIPED FROM MOST HISTORY TEXTS. THAT'S PART OF THEIR PUNISHMENT, YOU SEE.

WHOSE PUNISHMENT?

MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER ISAAC FOSTER GREY ESTABLISHED THIS VILLAGE AS A SAFE HAVEN FOR ALL THE TOP COMMANDERS IN HIS ARMY.

THEIR FAMILIES LIVED HERE, AS FAR FROM THE BATTLEFRONTS AS POSSIBLE. ALL TO THEIR BENEFIT. FOR THEIR PROTECTION.

THEY WERE HIS MOST TRUSTED MEN, AFTER ALL.

DO YOU KNOW HOW THEY REPAID HIS GRATITUDE?

BY BETRAYING MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER AND WORKING IN SECRET FOR THE NO-SIDE ARMY.

ANY GUESS AS TO HOW ISAAC REACTED?

HE DID WHAT ANY LEADER WOULD DO, SIR.

EXACTLY. HE KILLED THEM ALL. INCLUDING THEIR FAMILIES. THEN HE BURNED THIS PLACE FROM MEMORY ITSELF.

JUST LIKE HE'LL BURN ME. HE COULD PUSH ME OUT RIGHT NOW. NOBODY WOULD EVER KNOW.

YOU DID WELL FOR ME, SANDER. IF ANYTHING IS TROUBLING YOU--

I LIED TO YOU, SIR. MY WIFE IS WITH PONT NOW. I SAW HER KILL A WOMAN FOR NOT BEING LOYAL TO PONT. I WISH IT WASN'T HER, BUT IT WAS.

I ONLY TOLD YOU I COULDN'T FIND HER BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO THINK MY LOYALTIES WERE DIVIDED.

SHE MADE HER CHOICE, SIR. AND I MADE MINE. I JUST HOPE THAT MY WORK WITH THE FORTACHE PROVES THAT.

THERE'S NOTHING TO FORGIVE, SANDER.

I NEVER THOUGHT OTHERWISE.

NOW CLOSE THE HATCH AND GET BACK TO YOUR SEAT. WE HAVE TO GET THIS SHIP BACK TO THE CITY.

THE FIRST THING I NOTICE IS THE PEOPLE...OR THE LACK OF THEM. THERE ARE NO WORKERS IN THE FIELDS. PRECIOUS FOOD LIES UNPROTECTED, FOR ANYONE TO TAKE.

PRISONERS RUN WILD. THEIR GUARDS GONE TO GUARD MORE IMPORTANT THINGS.

BUT NEITHER CAN COMPARE...

...TO THIS.

BY ALL THE GODS ABOVE...

THIS IS WHY I DESPISE THAT WORD "REVOLUTION", SANDER. WHAT A GRANDIOSE TERM FOR TERROR AND A STREET FIGHT.

THE SIX IS ABOUT TO FALL--GOOD. MAYBE PONT DOES HAVE SOME SENSE IN HIS HEAD.

IT'LL MAKE CRUSHING HIM ALL THE MORE ENJOYABLE.

OBVIOUSLY THEY HAVEN'T TOUCHED GREY TOWERS YET. I'M SURE THE REST OF THE CITY--INCLUDING THE SIX--IS ALL WARM-UP FOR HIM.

BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT WE HAVE IN STORE FOR HIM.

ANY DOUBTS I HAD VANISH IN THE SMOKE RISING FROM THE CITY.

A RULER WILLING TO DESTROY HIS OWN PEOPLE, JUST TO PROVE A POINT, IS NOT FIT TO RULE.

I WILL DESTROY KILLIAN GREY. NO MATTER WHAT IT COSTS ME.

SIR! I EXPECTED YOU EARLIER.

A REOCCURRING THEME FOR ME. BUT AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE, GUSTAVO, YOU MUST BE PATIENT.

TELL ME THE MOST IMPORTANT UPDATES. TIME IS PRECIOUS.

WELL, TO BEGIN...

WHICH MEANS I HAVE TO PLAY ALONG JUST A LITTLE MORE.

...THE SIX HAS BEEN OVERRUN. PONT'S MEN ARE STORMING THE DEPTHS. THE UNDERGROUND IS RISING UP.

POWER IS OUT IN MOST OF THE CITY. THERE'S NO WATER. AND PONT HAS TAKEN OVER MOST OF THE FOOD WAREHOUSES.

GOOD. SO EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN. IT'S ALL SET IN MOTION. NOW WE'RE ON TO THE NEXT PHASE.

THERE'S SO MUCH TO PREPARE FOR.

SANDER, ARE YOU READY TO HELP ME SEE MY VISION THROUGH?

OF COURSE, SIR.

I'M READY.

CHAPTER TEN

PONT AND HIS ARMY HAVE RISEN FROM THE UNDERGROUND AND ARE BURNING THE CITY AS THEY GO. I HAVE REPORTS THAT THEY'VE ALREADY TAKEN OVER THE SIX.

HE'S CUT OFF POWER, FOOD, AND WATER TO EVERYONE. PEOPLE ARE GETTING DESPERATE.

WELL, THEN IT SEEMS WE DESERVE A MEAL.

OF COURSE, SIR.

KILLIAN, DID YOU HEAR US?

I DID. I ALSO INVITED YOU TO DINE WITH ME. SO SIT DOWN, SANDER.

I DISLIKE REPEATING MYSELF.

YES, SIR.

KILLIAN GREY, DRINKING WINE WHILE HIS CITY BURNS. HIS PEOPLE ARE DYING. AND THOUSANDS OF FORTACHE CURRENTLY MARCH TOWARD THEIR OWN DEATHS.

TO US!

THE TWO OF YOU ARE ON THE PROPER SIDE OF HISTORY.

WHEN THEY WRITE THE STORY OF MY TRIUMPH, I'LL ENSURE YOUR NAMES ARE WRITTEN BESIDE MINE.

SIR, NOTHING WOULD PLEASE ME MORE THAN TO HELP MAKE YOUR VISION A REALITY.

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, SANDER?

WE'RE WITH YOU 'TIL THE END, SIR.

MAY IT COME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

AS IT SHOULD BE.

NOW, I KNOW YOU'RE BOTH ANXIOUS TO GET TO WORK. SO LET US BEGIN.

THE FORTACHE WILL ARRIVE IN TWO DAYS. BEFORE THEY DO, I NEED YOU TO COMPLETE TWO TASKS FOR ME, SANDER.

FIRST, YOU WILL TRANSPORT THE ***ENTIRE*** COUNCIL FROM MY MOTHER'S QUARTERS TO THE AIRSHIP NEAR TOWER TEN.

PONT WILL GET HERE EVENTUALLY, AND I WANT THEM SAFELY HOVERING OVER THE CITY UNTIL THINGS SETTLE DOWN.

SECONDLY, GET THINGS IN ORDER WITH TERNA AND REPORT BACK WHEN YOU'RE DONE.

I KNOW YOU, SANDER. WORRYING ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S SAFETY WILL BE A DISTRACTION, AND I'LL NEED YOUR FULL ATTENTION.

NOW, GUSTAVO. YOU HAVE YOUR OWN MISSION TO ATTEND TO.

THEY'RE UP TO SOMETHING. I'LL BET MY LIFE THAT IT HAS TO DO WITH THE COUNCIL. I JUST HOPE I CAN FIND OUT WHAT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

GREY TOWERS ISN'T UNDER ATTACK YET.

BUT THESE PEOPLE ARE ALL RUNNING LIKE THEY'RE ABOUT TO DIE.

WHICH IS ODD BECAUSE THEY, MORE THAN ANYONE, HAVE NOWHERE TO RUN TO.

THEY'VE ISOLATED THEMSELVES IN GREY TOWERS, WITH NO SENSE OF THE CITY BELOW.

EVEN IF THERE ARE SAFE PLACES IN THE CITY, THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND THEM.

I TRY TO EMPATHIZE, BUT BY THE GODS, I CAN'T HELP IT.

I WANT THEM TO BE AFRAID. JUST ONCE. JUST LIKE THE REST OF US. LIKE MY **SON,** SOMEWHERE OUT THERE, AS HIS MOTHER--

SANDER!

--THE GODS REMIND ME...BOTH MY SONS.

SANDER! OVER HERE!

JOM! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

I WAS AT SCHOOL, AND THE TEACHER LEFT US. BUT SHE NEVER CAME BACK.

NOBODY CAME TO GET US, AND I SAW THE FIRES, AND I...I GOT SCARED AND HID.

I'M SORRY.

NO. NO. YOU DID JUST RIGHT.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR MOTHER IS, BRAVE BOY?

I-I-I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THIS MORNING.

WE'RE GOING TO FIND HER TOGETHER, OKAY?

THE COUNCIL CAN WAIT.

MOM!

TERNA!

SHE'S PROBABLY WITH LADY GREY. GATHER UP SOME CLOTHES, I'LL GET SOME FOOD AND TAKE YOU TO HER.

I DON'T KNOW WHEN WE'LL BE COMING BACK. SO PACK ENOUGH FOR A FEW DAYS.

OKAY.

HE'S TRYING NOT TO ACT SCARED.

*WE **BOTH** ARE.*

CLIK

AHH!

BLAM

NO!

RRRAAAHH!!

JOM! GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM 'TIL I CALL YOU!

MR. BELM WAS JUST LEAVING.

QUITE RIGHT. I WOULD SEEM TO BE AT YOUR MERCY, CAPTAIN ORLIN.

OR WHATEVER YOUR REAL NAME IS--

--I HAVE TO ASK--IS THIS REALLY WHY YOU AND BROTHER PONT INFILTRATED THE GUARD?

TO KILL OUR LEADER AND TURN THE CITY TO ASHES? IT MAKES NO SENSE--

--I THOUGHT THE PURPOSE OF REVOLUTION WAS TO TAKE OVER THE PLACE IN WHICH THE UPRISING OCCURS.

BUT THE WAY THINGS ARE, THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING LEFT TO RULE WHEN THIS IS ALL SAID AND DONE.

IF ONLY THEY HAD LISTENED TO ME...

YOU SHOULD BE THANKFUL THEY DIDN'T.

I *DID* INFILTRATE THE GUARD.

BUT I DIDN'T--AND NEVER WILL--WORK FOR PONT. I HATE HIM MORE THAN *YOU* DO.

BUT I'M DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU?

I SAW YOU IN THE COUNCIL'S CHAMBER--I COULD'VE EXPOSED YOU IF I HAD THEIR RESPECT, IF THEY'D PAID ANY ATTENTION--

YOU WERE WASTING TIME GOING AFTER THE WRONG MAN. YOU *STILL* ARE.

IF I'D WANTED TO KILL YOU, IF I'D WANTED TO KILL GREY, I WOULD HAVE DONE IT BY NOW.

THE COUNCIL ASKED YOU TO ROOT OUT PONT'S MEN.

WELL, PONT'S MEN ARE OUT IN THE OPEN NOW! THEY'RE EASY TARGETS.

...YOU REALLY AREN'T WITH HIM.

NO! SO DO YOUR *JOB,* AND GO AFTER THE MEN THAT *ARE!*

IT'S TOO LATE.

EVERYTHING I'VE DONE HAS BEEN FOR NOTHING.

I CAN'T DEFEAT PONT NOW. BUT I THOUGHT, IF I COULD EXPOSE YOU--I COULD AT LEAST...

...MY ENTIRE LIFE'S WORK...IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING.

YOU'RE NOT DEAD YET.

SO DON'T ACT LIKE IT!

I'LL DIE IF I GO OUT THERE.

YOU'LL DIE IF YOU STAY IN HERE. THAT'S A PROMISE.

YOU FAILED TO GET PONT BEFORE. DON'T FAIL AGAIN.

TELL ME YOUR REAL NAME.

GET OUT OF HERE, SOOTOH. YOU'VE CHASED THAT ENOUGH.

...THANK YOU.

HE DESERVES TO DIE, BUT IT WON'T BE BY MY HANDS.

HE WON'T LAST TWO DAYS OUT THERE.

JOM! LET'S GO FIND YOUR MOTHER. MR. BELM HAS WORK TO DO.

STICK CLOSE, JOM. IF SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS TO ME, GO BACK TO THE APARTMENT. HIDE THERE.

IS THE COUNCIL COMING WITH US?

THEY BETTER.

BNG BNG

WHO IS IT?

KILLIAN'S GUARD! EMPEROR GREY HAS SENT ME TO EVACUATE YOU!

I DON'T REMEMBER YOU. IF KILLIAN WANTS TO MOVE US, HE SHOULD HAVE COME HIMSELF.

I DON'T IMAGINE YOU REMEMBER *ANY* SERVANT. SO LET ME IN!

YESTERDAY, THESE PEOPLE COULD HAVE KILLED ME FOR TALKING TO THEM THIS WAY. BUT IT'S NOT YESTERDAY--THEY NEED ME NOW, AND THEY KNOW IT.

KILLIAN HAS MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO RIGHT NOW. HE SENT ME TO SAVE YOUR MISERABLE HIDES.

TO MY KNOWLEDGE, GREY TOWERS IS NOT CURRENTLY UNDER ATTACK.

YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME TO WAIT UNTIL IT IS TO COME SCURRYING AFTER US.

THE REST OF THE COUNCIL DESERVES TO GET AWAY SAFELY. NOW EXCUSE ME.

HEY!

HE SAID, "EXCUSE ME".

I KNOW YOU. YOU'RE KILLIAN'S GUARD.

SANDER?! JOM!

I WAS SO WORRIED!

SANDER FOUND ME. I WAS REALLY BRAVE BY HIDING, MOM. HE SAID SO.

WHERE'S KILLIAN?! HE SHOULD BE HERE! OR IS HE STILL PRETENDING TO BE TACTLESSLY DECEASED?

HE SENT ME TO FIND YOU. YOU ALL NEED TO EVACUATE TO TOWER TEN.

HE'S SAFE. YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE THAT HE CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.

RIGHT NOW, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS FOR *YOU* TO BE SAFE.

WHY SHOULD WE FOLLOW YOU ANYWHERE?

YOU *ASSAULTED* ME AT--

MR. SANDER. PLEASE KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO DESMOND.

THNK

YOU KEEP FORGETTING THAT YOU DON'T SPEAK FOR THE COUNCIL, DESMOND.

AND THAT IF YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT OUT OF THIS ALIVE, NO ONE WOULD QUESTION WHY. SO FOR ONCE... JUST SHUT UP.

FOLLOW CLOSE BEHIND ME!

YOU'LL BE SAFE SOON.

KEEP MOVING! DON'T LOOK BACK!

PONT'S ARMY HAS REACHED THE TOWERS' OUTER GATES.

WE'RE TAKING OFF IN LESS THAN FIVE!

WATCH GUSTAVO. THIS IS THE SAFEST PLACE I COULD THINK TO PUT YOU, BUT--I DON'T TRUST HIM, TERNA.

YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW, SANDER--I DON'T TRUST *ANYONE.*

I'LL KEEP MY EYE ON HIM.

YOU NEED TO REPORT BACK TO GREY.

I KNOW. THEN I HAVE TO FIND MY SON AND ENSURE HIS SAFETY. WITH HIS MOTHER FIGHTING FOR PONT, I CAN'T ALLOW RENNIE TO GET CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE.

JUST KEEP YOURSELF SAFE.

...I'LL TRY.

IS IT DONE?

YES. I--

GOOD. IT'LL BE A FEW DAYS TILL YOU CAN REST PROPERLY AGAIN, SANDER. THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH TO DO, AND WE CAN'T AFFORD ANY MISTAKES.

I'M NOT WORRIED.

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT. BUT YOU SHOULD BE.

THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL TEST YOU LIKE NOTHING ELSE EVER HAS.

TELL ME WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, SIR.

I'M DEPENDING ON YOU TO GET ALL OF THIS DONE, SANDER.

IF YOU FAIL, LANTERN CITY WILL FALL.

NOT TO WORRY, SIR. I WOULD NEVER LET THAT HAPPEN.

I'VE WRITTEN EVERYTHING DOWN FOR YOU. MUCH MUST BE DONE BEFORE YOUR PEOPLE ARRIVE. THE FORTACHE WILL CHANGE THE COURSE OF PONT'S LITTLE UPHEAVAL, BUT ONLY IF WE PROPERLY PAVE THE WAY.

LET'S GO! WE NEED TO GET TO THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE BUILDING BEFORE PONT'S MEN SWING AROUND AGAIN.

YOU SURE YOU WANT TO BE SO PUBLIC WITH YOUR PLAN?

YOU NEVER KNOW WHO COULD WALK THROUGH THIS DOOR.

SANDER?!

I DESERVE THAT. AND I'M SORRY THAT I'VE LET YOU DOWN, LIZEL.

BUT IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, LANTERN CITY WILL--

WE? WE?! *"WE"* IS ME AND MY CREW. THEY'RE THE "WE" THAT'S KEPT ME SAFE. WATCHED MY BACK. MADE SURE I HAD FOOD.

NOT YOU. AND NOW THAT YOUR PRECIOUS MASTER IS DEAD, YOU'RE PROBABLY FOLLOWING BROTHER PONT. JUST LIKE DAD AND KARLA.

I'VE SCREWED UP A LOT. I DIDN'T HOLD UP MY END OF THE BARGAIN.

BUT I'M STILL THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GET YOU--AND THIS WHOLE HICKIN' CITY--OUT OF THIS MESS.

TALK FAST. NO ONE HAS A LOT OF TIME THESE DAYS.

KILLIAN GREY IS STILL ALIVE.

HE PLANNED FOR PONT TO TAKE OVER SO HE COULD SWOOP DOWN AND "SAVE" THE CITY.

AND HE HAS TEN THOUSAND FORTACHE MARCHING TOWARD THE CITY TO HELP HIM FIGHT OFF PONT.

THE FORTACHE ARE *ALIVE?*

NOT FOR LONG. KILLIAN HAS OUTFITTED THEM WITH USELESS OLD WEAPONS. THEY'LL TAKE DOWN PONT, BUT HE'S HOPING THEY'LL BE SLAUGHTERED IN THE PROCESS.

I'M GOING TO GET THE FORTACHE REAL WEAPONS AND LEAD THEM AGAINST PONT AND KILLIAN.

BUT I NEED YOUR HELP.

YOU CAN'T JUST--

DON'T DO IT FOR ME. DO IT FOR THE CITY. AT THIS POINT, ONLY YOU AND I CAN SAVE IT.

MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WILL DIE IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING.

YOU'RE A REAL HICKING JERK. BUT I'M NOT READY TO LOSE MY HOME. OR WATCH MILLIONS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE DIE.

WHAT DO YOU NEED US TO DO?

WE NEED WEAPONS. *LOTS* OF WEAPONS.

I OPEN ANY AMMUNITION CACHE KENDAL OR KILLIAN EVER MENTIONED, JUST IN CASE LIZEL CAN'T GET ENOUGH.

I'M HOPING SHE CAN. THE FORTACHE NEED REAL WEAPONS TO FIGHT BROTHER PONT AND STAND UP TO KILLIAN. THEN I HEAD FOR THE MAIN EXIT.

IT'S UNNERVING TO EVEN BE NEAR IT. THIS IS THE WAY OUT. A FREE EXIT OUT OF THIS PLACE, YET NOBODY HAS EVER TRIED TO LEAVE.

WE'VE ALL ALLOWED OURSELVES TO BE PRISONERS. AND EVEN NOW, THE THOUGHT OF OPENING IT SENDS A CHILL THROUGH ME.

NO MORE.

SANDER.

TAKE OFF THOSE FILTHY RAGS AND PUT ON A *REAL* UNIFORM.

THE EMPIRE IS GOING TO FALL. YOU DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO THINK YOU'RE ON THE WRONG SIDE.

AAAGGGHHH!!!

NO! HOLD =HUNH= YOUR FIRE!

YOU SCREAMED LESS WHEN YOU *GOT* THAT WOUND. YOU WERE A REAL REVOLUTIONARY BACK THEN.

YOU ASKED ME TO BE SOMEONE ELSE, KENDAL. BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CHANGED.

WHAT YOU'RE DOING ISN'T REVOLUTION. IT'S ANARCHY.

AND YOU WILL BURN FOR IT.

BURN?

IF YOU DON'T JOIN PONT, *YOU* WILL BURN. YOU'LL BE ERASED FROM MEMORY. TO RENNIE, YOU'LL NEVER HAVE EXISTED AT ALL.

THIS ISN'T THE CITY I PROMISED HIM. THAT *WE* PROMISED HIM.

BUT IT IS THE CITY HE WILL HAVE. AND IF YOU JOIN US, PONT CAN STILL GIVE HIM A BETTER LIFE THAN HE HAS UNDER GREY.

IT'S JUST COMPROMISE, SANDER.

I'VE ALWAYS HATED THAT WORD.

LET SANDER DO WHAT HE CAME HERE FOR.

AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME.

LIZEL...

DAD, DON'T. YOU BETRAYED ME AND ABANDONED ME, BUT ARE YOU WILLING TO KILL ME?

DON'T TELL ME YOU FIGHT FOR THE GREY EMPIRE NOW!

NO. I FIGHT FOR THE CITY YOU ONCE PROMISED ME. A CITY WHERE WE AREN'T WORKED TO DEATH. A CITY THAT ALLOWS US TO EDUCATE OURSELVES. A CITY WHERE WE CAN WALK THE STREETS WITHOUT FEAR OF KILLIAN *OR* PONT.

SANDER'S THE ONLY PERSON WHO HASN'T FORGOTTEN THAT.

DEVIL'S CREW--TAKE CARE OF THE SOLDIERS.

PFFT PFFT PFFT

YOU THINK YOUR LITTLE GANG CAN STOP PONT?! I RAISED YOU TO BE SMARTER THAN THAT.

BROTHER PONT IS THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN CHANGE THIS CITY!

PONT AND HIS ARMY--WHICH *OUR FAMILY* IS A PART OF--THEY'RE UNSTOPPABLE.

THERE AREN'T ENOUGH GUARDS OR WEAPONS IN LANTERN CITY TO EVEN HOPE TO DEFEAT THEM.

AND AFTER HE BRINGS THE EMPIRE TO ITS KNEES AND BURNS THEIR PRECIOUS CITY TO THE GROUND, WE WILL REBUILD THIS CITY AS WE SEE FIT!

NO MORE ANSWERING TO THE GREYS!

YOU THINK PONT'S GOING TO TEAR DOWN THE EMPIRE AND JUST HAND IT OVER TO THE PEOPLE?

I THOUGHT *YOU* WERE SMARTER THAN THAT.

IT IS DONE. THERE'S NOTHING THE SIX OF YOU CAN DO. YOUR CAUSE IS HOPELESS. BROTHER PONT HAS AN *ARMY.*

PFFT

KCHCHCHNG

KREEEE

SO DO I.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

I'VE NEVER FELT MORE CONFIDENT OR EMPOWERED. LEADING AN ARMY IS ITS OWN SPECIAL DRUG.

AND FOR A MOMENT, WITH A THOUSAND FORTACHE BEHIND ME, I CAN SEE WHY KILLIAN GREY AND BROTHER PONT BECAME THE MEN THEY ARE.

FOR A MOMENT, I FEEL JUST AS UNTOUCHABLE.

SO THIS IS HOW YOU WANT TO BEAT US, SANDER? USING MY OWN DAUGHTER AND A GROUP OF SAVAGES AGAINST ME?!

NOT SAVAGES, ***PEOPLE***. AND NOT AGAINST YOU. WE STAND AGAINST PONT AND GREY AND ANYONE ELSE DETERMINED TO FEED OFF THIS CITY.

LOWER YOUR WEAPONS, EVERYONE!

YOU HAVE NO CHANCE AGAINST US, KENDAL. YOU KNOW THAT. THE FORTACHE WILL WIPE YOU OUT. BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY.

MAYBE...

YEAH, IT DOES.

ATTACK!

WAIT! HOLD YOUR--

THE FIGHT STARTS BEFORE EITHER OF US CAN STOP IT.

BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY MEN PONT HAS...

PFFT

CHOOM

ATTACK!

...OR HOW INADEQUATE THE FORTACHE'S WEAPONS ARE...

...PONT'S MEN DON'T STAND A CHANCE.

AND LIKE SO MANY BEFORE THEM...

PFFT

...THEY DIE FOR NOTHING.

AH!

ARAH! STOP!

EVERYONE! STOP!

WHY? WE ARE WINNING!

I THOUGHT YOU CAME HERE TO FIGHT FOR A NEW START.

WELL, THAT START BEGINS WITH SPARING KENDAL. I WON'T GIVE UP ON HIM YET.

FINE.

IT DOESN'T MATTER. NOTHING CAN STOP PONT!

I WILL.

LIZEL, YOU SAY THAT NOW...

AND SHE MEANS IT. YOU RAISED HER RIGHT. SHE KNOWS HOW TO FIGHT. AND WHAT TO FIGHT *FOR.*

PONT IS THE CHANGE THIS CITY NEEDS! YOU AND THE FORTACHE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

DAD! LISTEN TO YOURSELF. THIS ISN'T YOU. PONT'S REVOLUTION ISN'T YOURS. IT'S NOT TOO LATE! JOIN US. HELP US.

WE CAN STILL BUILD THE CITY YOU DREAMED OF, KENDAL. THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE COMMITTED TO REAL CHANGE OUT THERE.

AND IT'S OKAY THAT YOU WERE WRONG. WE WERE *ALL* WRONG. BUT NOW IT'S TIME TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.

I'M--I'M SORRY. FOR EVERYTHING.

YOU'RE FORGIVEN IF YOU HELP US STOP PONT.

PONT IS POWERFUL. SO MANY PEOPLE FOLLOW HIM. THEY'LL DIE FOR HIM. I'M NOT SURE HOW I CAN HELP.

YOU KNOW HIS PLAN, AND YOU STILL KNOW THOSE IN HIS ORGANIZATION WHO WANT *REAL* REVOLUTION. THAT HELPS.

PONT IS MOVING TOWARD GREY TOWERS NOW. HE'S GOING TO OVERTAKE IT AND BURN IT TO THE GROUND.

I'M SUPPOSED TO LEAD MY TROOPS FROM THE NORTHWEST.

GOOD. THEN YONO, ARAH, AND I WILL LEAD THE FORTACHE FROM THE NORTHWEST INSTEAD.

KENDAL, GATHER ANYONE YOU CAN AND LEAD THEM FROM THE SOUTHEAST.

LIZEL, YOU MENTIONED WEAPONS. WE NEED THEM. FIRST STOP FOR EVERYONE IS WHERE YOU LEAD US NEXT.

BEFORE WE MARCH THROUGH THE DEPTHS, WE NEED TO ARM YOU. THE WEAPONS GREY GAVE YOU ARE USELESS.

I CAN'T PROMISE YOU THAT WE'LL LIVE, BUT I WILL FIGHT WITH YOU. IF WE SUCCEED, YOU WILL FIND A HOME HERE.

YOU HAVE MY WORD.

THERE HAS TO BE A WEAPONS CACHE I DON'T KNOW ABOUT. THE GREYS WERE ALWAYS SQUIRRELING AWAY GUNS. WE NEED MORE TIME!

GENERAL CANDEN! WE'RE UNDER--URK!

PFFT

NO BULLETS, GENERAL? YOU COULDN'T HAVE MADE THIS ANY EASIER...

CLK

BFFT

YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON I EXPECTED TO SEE. DID YOU COME TO PROVE A POINT? THAT PONT INFILTRATED MY GUARD?

IT MAY SURPRISE YOU, BUT I'M NOT HERE TO GLOAT. I'M HERE TO GET RID OF PONT.

WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO GET RID OF HIM ALREADY?

I TRIED, BUT I CAN'T DO IT ALONE.

THERE'S A HIDDEN WEAPONS CACHE BENEATH GREY TOWERS. KNOW ANYONE WHO MIGHT WANT IT?

I STILL HATE YOU, SOOTOH.

LEAD THE WAY.

HAVING US FLY AROUND THE CITY WITH NO DESTINATION IN MIND IS *NOT* A PLAN.

I ASSURE YOU THAT KILLIAN GREY HAS THE SITUATION FIRMLY IN HAND.

YOUR ASSURANCES MEAN ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO ME, SERVANT.

THAT MAN NEVER SHUTS UP. AS IF TALKING ABOUT CONTROL ACTUALLY GIVES US ANY.

WE'RE ALL HELPLESS...

EXCUSE ME, LADY GREY. I NEED TO CHECK SOMETHING.

TERNA!

...FINE. BRING ICE WHEN YOU COME BACK.

MAKE SURE EVERYONE HAS A RIFLE AND A PISTOL AND A BOX OF AMMO FOR EACH. THEY'LL NEED IT.

AFTER THAT, ASSIGN ONE LEADER FOR EVERY HUNDRED MEN.

WHAT'S NEXT, SANDER? WE CAN DO MORE THAN PASS OUT GUNS. WE CAN FIGHT!

I KNOW YOU CAN...

...WHICH IS WHY IF WE FAIL IN STOPPING PONT, SOMEONE NEEDS TO BE WAITING IN GREY TOWERS TO KILL HIM.

AND THAT'S WHAT I NEED YOU TO DO. BREAK INTO GREY TOWERS AND ARM EVERYONE INSIDE. YOU'LL HAVE TO DEFEAT PONT IF WE CAN'T.

YOU'VE GOT IT.

LIZEL, IF YOU FEEL LIKE IT'S TOO MUCH--

KENDAL--DAD, I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE ANYMORE. THE CAUSE NEEDS ME TO LOVE YOU, SO I DO.

BUT I WON'T PRETEND TO KNOW YOU, SO DON'T PRETEND TO KNOW ME.

MY JOB IS TO BREAK INTO GREY TOWERS. YOUR JOB IS TO MAKE SURE PONT DOESN'T GET THAT FAR.

COME ON, KENDAL. WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO.

SHE'S NEVER GOING TO TRUST ME AGAIN.

I FOLLOWED PONT BECAUSE I REALIZED HE'D GO TO ANY LENGTHS TO TOPPLE THE GREY EMPIRE. I ADMIRED HIM FOR THAT. I ALWAYS HAD MY LIMITS.

BUT HE TWISTED MY MIND SO MUCH, I FORGOT WHY LIMITS ARE IMPORTANT. I DID THINGS...

...I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO HELP YOU STOP HIM. TO GET BACK TO WHO WE WERE.

WE'LL NEVER BE THE SAME PEOPLE WE ONCE WERE, KENDAL. BUT THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS NOW IS WHAT KIND OF CITY WE GET AT THE END OF THIS.

FORTUNATELY, WE'RE NOT ALONE.

IF THIS IS IT FOR US, LET'S MAKE SURE WE STOP PONT AND GREY.

THE CITY'S GOING TO SURVIVE THIS. GATHER YOUR MEN. WE'RE MARCHING SOON.

IS THIS WHAT YOU IMAGINED, BROTHER PONT? WHEN YOU DREAMT OF REVOLUTION?

THIS? NO. THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.

MOM, THIS PLACE IS SCARY. I WANT TO GO HOME.

I TOLD YOU, YOUR HOME IS WHEREVER PONT IS. NOW STOP WHINING, AND--

COME HERE, BOY.

TAKE A LONG, HARD LOOK AT THAT.

YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT LIKE THIS BEFORE. AND YOU WILL NEVER SEE IT AGAIN.

IS THAT--?

IT'S WHAT YOU'LL TELL YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT ONE DAY. AS THE VERY THING...

"...WE BURNT DOWN TO GIVE THEM THEIR FREEDOM."

THAT TAKES CARE OF EVERYTHING.

EVERYTHING?

I MUST HAVE MISSED SOMETHING, THEN. CARE TO EXPLAIN WHAT EXACTLY YOU'RE DOING?

OF COURSE. KILLIAN IS REMAKING ALL OF LANTERN CITY, AND HE DOESN'T NEED THE COUNCIL TELLING HIM WHAT TO DO ANYMORE.

SO A *TRAGIC ACCIDENT* IS ABOUT TO DESTROY THIS AIRSHIP AND KILL EVERYONE INSIDE.

YOU--

DON'T MAKE THIS ANY MORE UNPLEASANT THAN IT HAS TO BE, MA'AM. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN SAY THAT WILL CHANGE MY MIND.

I WAS GOING TO SAY THAT YOU MIGHT WANT THESE CHUTE RELEASES, BUT SINCE YOU WOULDN'T CHANGE YOUR MIND...

...I GUESS I'LL FOCUS ON SAVING MYSELF INSTEAD.

DAMN IT.

WHY DIDN'T I TAKE THE "LEARN TO FLY AN AIRSHIP" COURSE IN FINISHING SCHOOL?

HOW LONG CAN WE HOLD THIS POSITION?

NOT MUCH LONGER. WE NEED REINFORCEMENTS! AMMUNITION!

DON'T WISH FOR THINGS THAT AREN'T GOING TO HAPPEN.

WE HAVE TO TRY THE EXPLOSIVES.

THAT'S SUICIDE!

PROBABLY, BUT THAT'S WHERE WE ARE.

...I'LL SET THE CHARGES. YOU MAKE A BREAK FOR IT. GET US MORE AMMO.

YAAAH!

BOOM

THNK

SOOTOH!

WE'RE DEAD--

THE BATTLE IS DEAFENING. EXPLOSIONS EVERYWHERE.

I NEVER SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIM.

BUT I DO.

MY SON, HOLDING HANDS WITH THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN LANTERN CITY.

NO!

RENNIE!

GIVE ME MY SON, OR I'LL KILL YOU WHERE YOU STAND!

YOUR BULLETS CAN'T STOP ME.

MY ARMY WILL CARRY MY MISSION THROUGH WHETHER I'M DEAD OR ALIVE.

DON'T WORRY, SIR.

SANDER WON'T TRY ANYTHING STUPID.

WILL YOU, SANDER?

CHAPTER TWELVE

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS, KARLA. JUST PUT THE GUN DOWN.

AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO?

YOU'RE TRYING TO PROTECT GREY! AFTER EVERYTHING HE'S COST THIS CITY! EVERYTHING HE'S COST *US!*

YOU LEFT US TO CHANGE THE WORLD, SANDER. BUT GREY TWISTED THINGS. HE TWISTED YOU.

MOM?

IT'S OKAY. IT'S WHAT HE DOES. BUT THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE TO STAND ASIDE.

ONLY PONT IS STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP HIM NOW. DON'T YOU SEE THAT?

LISTEN TO YOUR FAMILY, SANDER.

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN. I'D PREFER NOT TO CRUSH YOU...

...BUT WE WILL NO LONGER LIVE IN THE SHADOWS OF GREY TOWERS. WHATEVER SCRAPS GREY PROMISED YOU TO LURE YOU TO THEIR SIDE, YOU DON'T BELONG THERE.

JOIN US, SANDER.

AND WHAT SCRAPS ARE *YOU* PROMISING, PONT?

OH, I CAN OFFER BETTER THAN THAT.

THE RULERS WILL BE OUR SLAVES, AND WE WILL BURN *THEIR* CITY TO THE GROUND. I WILL REMAKE THIS CITY IN MY IMAGE. NO GUARDS, NO LAWS.

JUST ME.

IT'S FUNNY, YOU PROBABLY DON'T KNOW THIS. BUT, RIGHT NOW, YOU SOUND JUST LIKE KILLIAN GREY.

RENNIE...

...EYES SHUT!

BAM

Urk--!

NOOO!!

NO! NONONONO... STAY WITH ME. PLEASE!

KARLA...

HOW COULD YOU?

HOW COULD I *NOT?*

DIDN'T YOU HEAR HIM? JUST PUT THE GUN DOWN AND WE'LL TALK!

HE WAS OUR LAST HOPE!

HE WASN'T, KARLA. HE WOULD HAVE BEEN JUST ANOTHER GREY.

HE WOULD HAVE BEEN *OUR* GREY! OUR FAMILY WOULD HAVE BEEN PROVIDED FOR.

OUR *SON* WOULD HAVE BEEN PROVIDED FOR!

IS THAT WHY YOU WERE POINTING A GUN AT HIM?

WE...WERE... SO CLOSE.

RENNIE. IT'S DAD. COME. COME TO ME.
MR. PONT SAID YOU DIED.
NO. I'M RIGHT HERE. I--
MR. PONT'S NEVER WRONG. MOM, I WANNA GO HOME.
WE CAN'T GO HOME, SWEETHEART.
THERE IS NO HOME ANYMORE. JUST SURVIVAL.
BROTHERS! SISTERS! PUT DOWN YOUR GUNS!
PONT HAS FALLEN! THE WAR IS LOST!

THEN WE'LL AVENGE HIM!

FRIENDS, THE WAR ISN'T LOST! NOT IF YOU DON'T LET IT BE!

I'M NOT GOIN' BACK!

FIGHT!

THAT'S WHAT KILLIAN GREY WANTS YOU TO BELIEVE. KILLING US ONLY MAKES HIM STRONGER.

HAVEN'T YOU BECOME QUITE THE SPEAKER.

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US TO DO, SANDER?

WEAPONS DOWN. PLEASE.

MY FRIENDS, WHY DO YOU BURN THIS CITY? *YOUR* CITY.

IF YOU PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPONS, I PROMISE YOU WON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN THE SHADOWS ANYMORE. WE ARE ALL FIGHTING THE SAME ENEMY, AND I CAN GET YOU THE FREEDOMS YOU WANT. FOOD, EDUCATION, DIGNITY.

WHAT'S THE POINT OF DYING FOR A FUTURE YOU'LL NEVER SEE?

YOU HEARD HIM! PUT DOWN YOUR GUNS!

I FOLLOWED PONT. BUT SANDER CAN GIVE YOU THE CHANGES YOU SEEK. HE KNOWS YOUR WORLD--OUR WORLD--AND HE KNOWS GREY TOWERS.

IF HE SAYS WE CAN WIN, WE CAN.

I DON'T WANT TO RULE YOU. I WANT TO HELP YOU.

THANK YOU, SANDER...

...I KNEW YOU COULD SUBDUE THEM.

FORTACHE! KILL PONT'S MONGRELS. THE BLOOD OF THESE TRAITORS WILL FLOW THROUGH THE STREETS.

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE TO REPEAT MYSELF, FORTACHE.

KILL THEM.

WHICH OF US ARE YOU SPEAKING TO, MR. GREY? OR DID YOU NEVER BOTHER TO LEARN OUR NAMES?

I BOTHERED TO LEARN THE TERMS OF OUR *TREATY.* YOU KILL PONT'S MEN, AND I GIVE YOU SAFE HARBOR.

OUR AGREEMENT WAS TO HELP YOU WIN THE WAR. THESE PEOPLE HAVE LAID DOWN THEIR GUNS. I SEE NO WAR LEFT TO FIGHT.

ENOUGH PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY DIED, KILLIAN. NO ONE IS GOING TO FIGHT ANYMORE.

BECAUSE YOU TOLD THEM NOT TO?

I RULE LANTERN CITY, AND I WILL CROSS CONTINENTS TO EXPAND MY VISION. THIS WORLD--AND OTHERS--WILL ALL KNOW ONLY ONE RULER. ME.

MAYBE... BUT NOT TODAY.

FORTACHE-- KILL THEM ALL!

PONT IS DEAD. THE COUNCIL IS DEAD. THERE'S ONLY ONE RULER IN THIS CITY, AND ANYONE THAT GOES AGAINST ME WILL DIE.

AND WHO WILL FIGHT THEM FOR YOU? IF WE DON'T CONSENT?

IS THIS THE PART WHERE YOU KILL THE MURDEROUS TYRANT AND PROCLAIM YOURSELF KING BECAUSE THERE JUST ISN'T ANYONE ELSE?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE OUR ENEMY, KILLIAN.

THEY WANT THIS CITY TO BE GREAT. I THOUGHT YOU WANTED THAT, TOO.

I GUESS YOU LEARNED A THING OR TWO ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS.

I LEARNED FROM THE BEST.

YOU WIN TODAY, SANDER. BUT TOMORROW IS ANOTHER STORY.

I WILL ALWAYS BE THREE STEPS AHEAD OF YOU.

I KNOW. BUT YOU'LL NEVER BE THREE STEPS AHEAD OF *US.*

SOMEONE HAS TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.

CITIZENS OF LANTERN CITY. PLEASE DISPERSE!

MOTHER?

THE COUNCIL OF LANTERN CITY HEARS THE SUFFERING OF ITS PEOPLE.

THERE WILL BE NO REPRIMANDS FOR THE ACTIONS THAT TOOK PLACE TODAY, AND EVEN NOW, WE'RE GATHERING TO DISCUSS REFORMS I'M SURE MY SON WILL ENDORSE.

MOURN TODAY, LANTERN CITY. TOMORROW, WE REBUILD.

AND, KILLIAN...

...I WOULDN'T LOOK TOO HARD FOR GUSTAVO. HE MISTOOK HIMSELF FOR A PASA BIRD. TRIED TO FLY.

GET SOME REST, KILLIAN. YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE YOUR NEW CITY.

I PROMISE.

LET'S GET BOTH OF THESE ARMIES TO THE UNDERGROUND.

OUR TOP PRIORITY IS KEEPING THESE PEOPLE ALIVE--AND STOPPING ANY STRAGGLERS STILL LOYAL TO PONT.

WHAT DO WE DO IF WE'RE ATTACKED?

DEFEND YOURSELF, BUT IF IT'S PONT'S MEN, LET KENDAL SPEAK TO THEM. I WANT CONVERTS MORE THAN CORPSES.

SOON.

WILL YOU JOIN US?

KARLA...

SANDER!

EVERYTHING'S SECURE ON OUR END. WHAT DID WE MISS?

WAR'S OFF, LIZEL.

WE WON.

Six Months Later

THIS IS YOUR LANTERN CITY

DON'T SULK, KILLIAN. FAILURE IS AN EXCELLENT TEACHER AND RARELY SO GENEROUS...

...BESIDES, I'VE HEARD ALL OF YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT HOW IGNORANT YOUR HIRED HELP IS.

THIS EDUCATION PROPOSAL WILL BENEFIT EVERYONE.

WON'T IT, KILLIAN?

WELL--

EXCELLENT!

AND OF COURSE, A NEW EDUCATION SYSTEM NEEDS A MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOMETHING WE HAVEN'T HAD SINCE THE DAYS OF ISAAC FOSTER GREY.

MY SON HAS WISELY DECREED THAT SYLRANA MODAVIS WILL FILL THAT ROLE.

AFTER ALL, ONCE THE WEDDING WITH MY SON IS FINALIZED, SHE WILL BE THE MOTHER OF LANTERN CITY. WHO BETTER TO REAR ALL ITS CHILDREN?

I DON'T ATTEND THE MEETINGS MYSELF. THAT WOULD BE A STEP TOO FAR. BUT TERNA REPORTS BACK OFTEN.

DON'T JUDGE IT YET. IT'S WHAT WE ACCOMPLISH HERE THAT MATTERS, NOT WHAT THE BUILDING LOOKS LIKE.

KENDAL AND MOST OF PONT'S FOLLOWERS ARE REOPENING THE SCHOOLS.

THEY WORK DOUBLE-TIME TO GET THEM READY, BUT NO ONE COMPLAINS.

ONCE WE CLEAR THIS OUT, WE CAN MOVE ON TO ALL OF THE FOOD CACHES AND DISTRIBUTE THEM AS NEEDED.

LIZEL AND HER CREW ARE SETTLING IN THE FORTACHE, WHO HAVE BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF ALL PUBLIC MUNITIONS.

YOU WERE CAST OUT HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, BUT THIS CITY BELONGS TO YOU AS MUCH AS IT DOES ANYONE ELSE. THIS CITY IS HOME TO ALL OF US, AND WE MAY NEED TO DEFEND IT.

KEEPING THEM IN CHARGE OF THE GUNS SEEMED THE FAIREST SOLUTION TO ALL, SINCE THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES WITHOUT A HISTORY OF TRYING TO KILL EACH OTHER.

BUT THAT LEAVES KILLIAN.

WHO HAS EITHER ACCEPTED HIS NEW SITUATION, OR IS PLOTTING OUR DEMISE AT THIS VERY MOMENT.

AND, IF HE DOES PLAN TO DESTROY US ALL, WILL WE HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH TO STOP HIM?

HAVE YOU COME TO KILL ME, SANDER?

I'D LIKE TO THINK I SAVED YOU, KILLIAN. THOSE ARMIES WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU. YOUR PLAN WOULD HAVE DESTROYED YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE IN THE CITY.

PERHAPS. WITH MOTHER DEFERRING TO YOU AND YOUR ***SECOND*** WIFE'S WISDOM, YOU PROBABLY THINK YOU KNOW BEST. THAT YOU'VE ***CONTAINED*** ME.

NO ONE CONTAINS ME, SANDER. NOT FOR LONG.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SEE IT THAT WAY, KILLIAN. WE--

I ALSO FIND IT INTERESTING THAT ALL OF MY LABS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

SO YOU CAN CONCENTRATE ON LEADING LANTERN CITY.

HMM...PERHAPS YOU HAVE A POINT THERE.

HERE'S TO THE FUTURE OF LANTERN CITY, "SANDER THE REVOLUTIONARY".

TO YOU, KILLIAN. FOR OPENING THE UNDERGROUND, THE SCHOOLS, REBUILDING THE CHURCHES, WELCOMING THE FORTACHE, REFORMING THE GUARD. YOU TRULY ARE BUILDING A LEGACY.

YOUR LEGACY.

MSH

IF YOU WON'T DRINK MY WINE, YOU HAVE NO PLACE AT THIS TABLE.

GOODBYE, SANDER. I'LL SEE YOU IN THE MORNING. MAYBE I'LL RECOGNIZE YOU THEN. MAYBE YOU'LL RECOGNIZE YOURSELF.

THE WORST PART IS...

...I KNOW JUST WHAT HE MEANS.

IF YOUR TEACHER TOLD YOU TO READ IT, YOU HAVE TO READ IT.

THE READING'S FINE--IT'S THE TESTS I DON'T LIKE.

KNCK KNCK KNCK

SANDER!

HELLO, LITTLE MAN! DID YOU HAVE FUN AT SCHOOL?

THE TEACHER SAID MY NUMBERS ARE REALLY GOOD NOW.

WELL, THAT'S EXCELLENT. WANT TO GET THEM AND SHOW ME?

YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE. IT'S NEARLY DINNER; YOU SHOULD EAT WITH YOUR FAMILY.

I JUST...I JUST GOT OUT FROM SEEING KILLIAN.

ARE YOU OKAY? DID HE--?

NO. I'M FINE.

DON'T GIVE IN TO HIM, SANDER. LADY GREY, SYLRANA, AND I--THE THREE OF US WILL FIGURE OUT YET HOW TO BRING KILLIAN TO HEEL.

THEN WHY DOES IT ALREADY FEEL TOO LATE?

CHANGE ALWAYS COMES WITH A PRICE, SANDER. LET'S BE GLAD THIS TIME IT WAS SO SMALL.

I'LL MAKE YOUR EXCUSES TO JOM. GO HOME.

SHE'S RIGHT. IT IS A SMALL PRICE.

MY BELLY'S FULL. MY CITY IS THRIVING. MY SON WILL FINALLY KNOW PEACE.

WHAT DOES IT MATTER IF HIS FATHER LOST SOMETHING HE CAN'T EVEN NAME?

HOW CAN A THING BE CALLED LOST IF YOU CAN'T REMEMBER HAVING IT IN THE FIRST PLACE?

...

HOW'S YOUR FOOD?

GOOD. I LEARNED A NEW GAME TODAY! WANNA PLAY?

AFTER I EAT.

KARLA, HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

...I'LL GET IT SET UP.

WE WON.

I JUST HAVE TO KEEP REMINDING MYSELF OF IT.

EAT YOUR FOOD, SIR.

IT LOSES THE FLAVOR IF IT GOES COLD.

...WE WON.

THE END

COVER GALLERY

ISSUE NINE COVER BY

BENJAMIN CARRÉ

ISSUE TEN COVER BY

BENJAMIN CARRÉ

ISSUE ELEVEN COVER BY

BENJAMIN CARRÉ

ISSUE TWELVE COVER BY

BENJAMIN CARRÉ

ISSUE TWELVE VARIANT COVER BY

DAVE DORMAN

INSIDE *LANTERN CITY*: THE ART OF CARLOS MAGNO

I was in New York when Ian Brill (my editor on *Robocop*) emailed from Los Angeles saying that BOOM! Studios Editor-in-Chief Matt Gagnon would like to meet me during New York Comic Con. Matt and I met each other in the hotel lobby, where he brought me two pieces of news: the first was that I was leaving *Robocop* after its eighth issue. I did not love the idea that I would leave the book. I was in love with the character. But Matt Gagnon is a very cool guy, a gentleman, and he enthusiastically introduced me to my next project: the universe of *Lantern City*. This was the second piece of news. And sitting at a table in the hotel lobby, he convinced me that I was the right artist for the book. Actually, after about one or two seconds I said, "I am in." It was everything I like to do. The concept of *Lantern City* was dark, misty, and beautiful, and I couldn't wait to get in the office and start to work.

As I worked on the last pages of *Robocop*, I also began developing *Lantern City*, working on characters. And as soon as the designs were approved, I started working on pages. The breath between the two books was only the weekend, and on Monday, I was immersed in the universe of Trevor Crafts, Matthew Daley, and Bruce Boxleitner. There were no words to describe Paul Jenkins and Matthew Daley's script for issue #1. The same is true for Matt and Mairghread Scott's work together throughout the series. It was magical…and it perfectly represented the chaos and fear of a city governed by opulence. I prayed that my art could represent a script so well written. And despite the fact that my first approach for the book may have been more futuristic than the concept, everything ultimately turned out beautiful. I admit that I was worried about the colors. I did not know Chris Blythe, but when Assistant Editor Mary Gumport sent me his first few pages, I was flabbergasted. I remember saying to Mary, "I don't know what to say about something so cool." From there, everything is history. The relentless production of *Lantern City* took a year. The book was a success. All the crew were like the characters in the book: we were living in a magical universe, fighting evil, defending our loved ones, and especially, making friends.

I hope you feel the same.

—Carlos Magno
Brazil
April 22nd, 2016

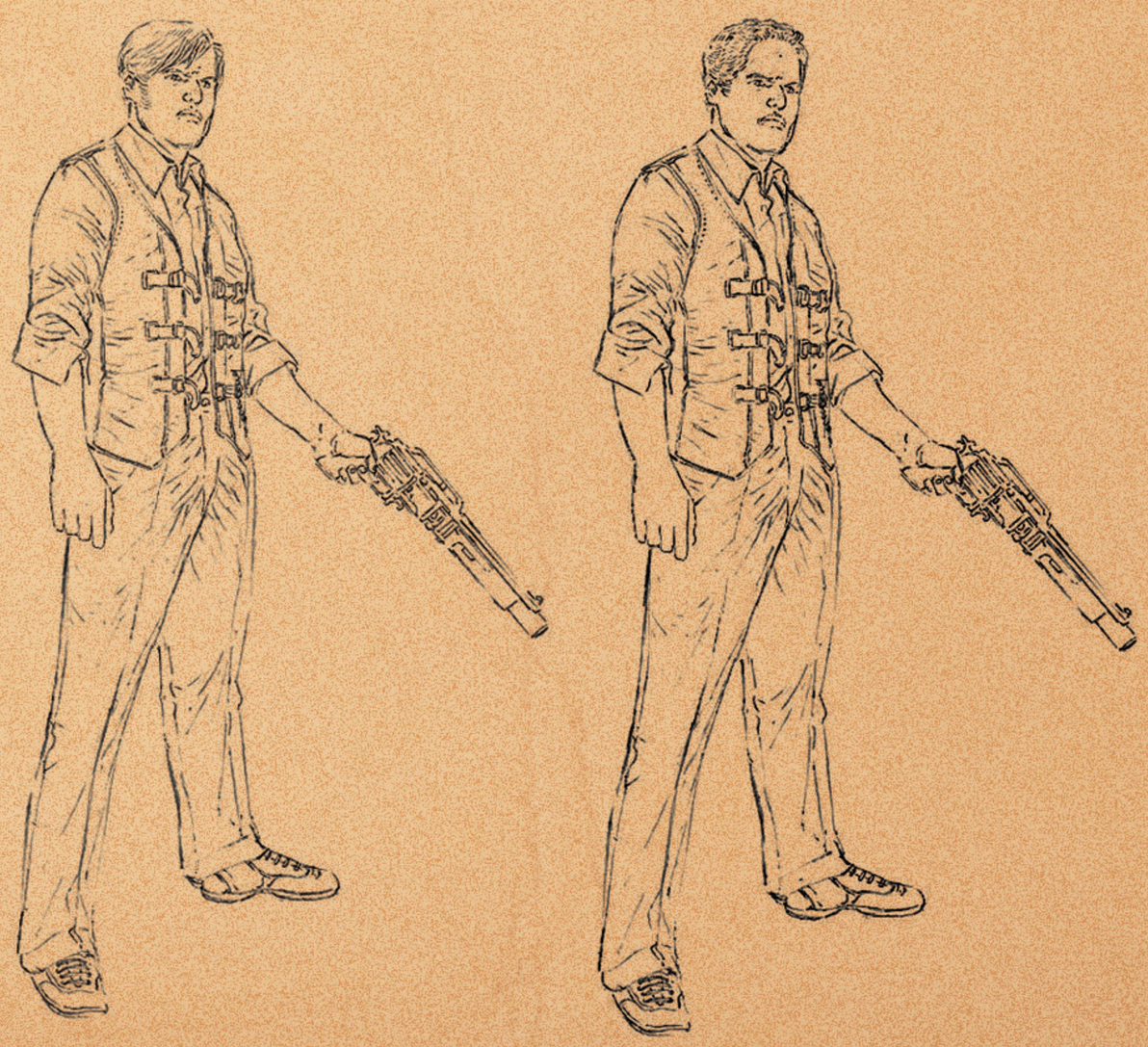
CHARACTER DESIGNS

THE GUARD: When I received the description of the uniform of the guards, I thought of them as a little more traditional and not so dark. My first conception was to portray them like the British Royal Guard. But as *Lantern City* should show more complex, unique characters, the creators sent me a picture of what would be a guard helmet and armor. From there, I created four variations of the look until we found the final version.

SANDER: The good guy. The hero. As he is living in the underworld of Lantern City, my approach should reflect that in his body. He is thin, not so muscular, has suffered, and has long hair. He has other things to worry about besides his appearance. However, he is handsome enough to be our hero. My concern with the character was the idea of drawing him with a ponytail. I had to be careful to make sure that this is still Sander.

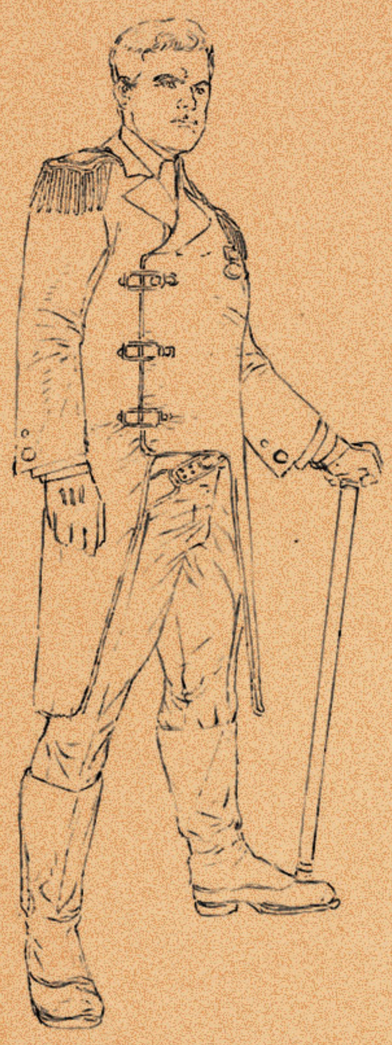
KARLA AND RENNIE: For Karla, I took reference from Keira Knightley's expressions. She should represent the fragile side of women, and this should be more psychological than the language of her body and face. And to think about that is a trap. In the course of the story, the character changes dramatically, and it may scare the fans. For Rennie, my oldest son, Edward, was my main reference. He did very well when I asked him to pose for the character. And he loves the result.

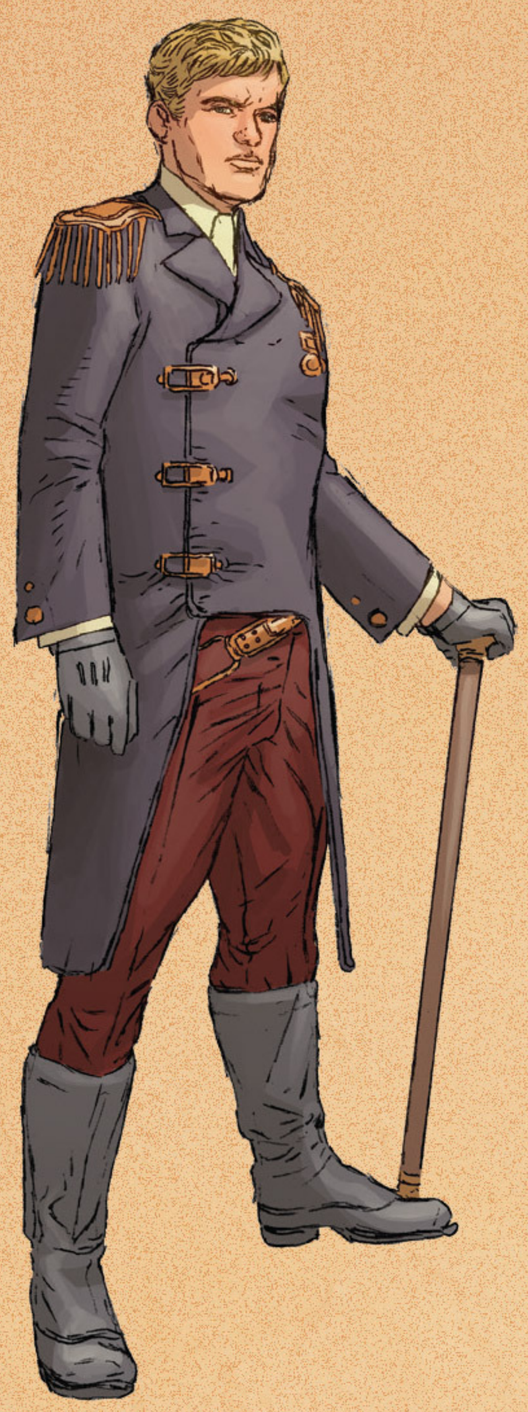
KENDAL: There was a lot of reference for Kendal. The artists who created the first images for the television series determined how Kendal would look, and Raphael Sbarge was already attached. There was less involvement from me, because everything was ready to go.



CHARACTER DESIGNS

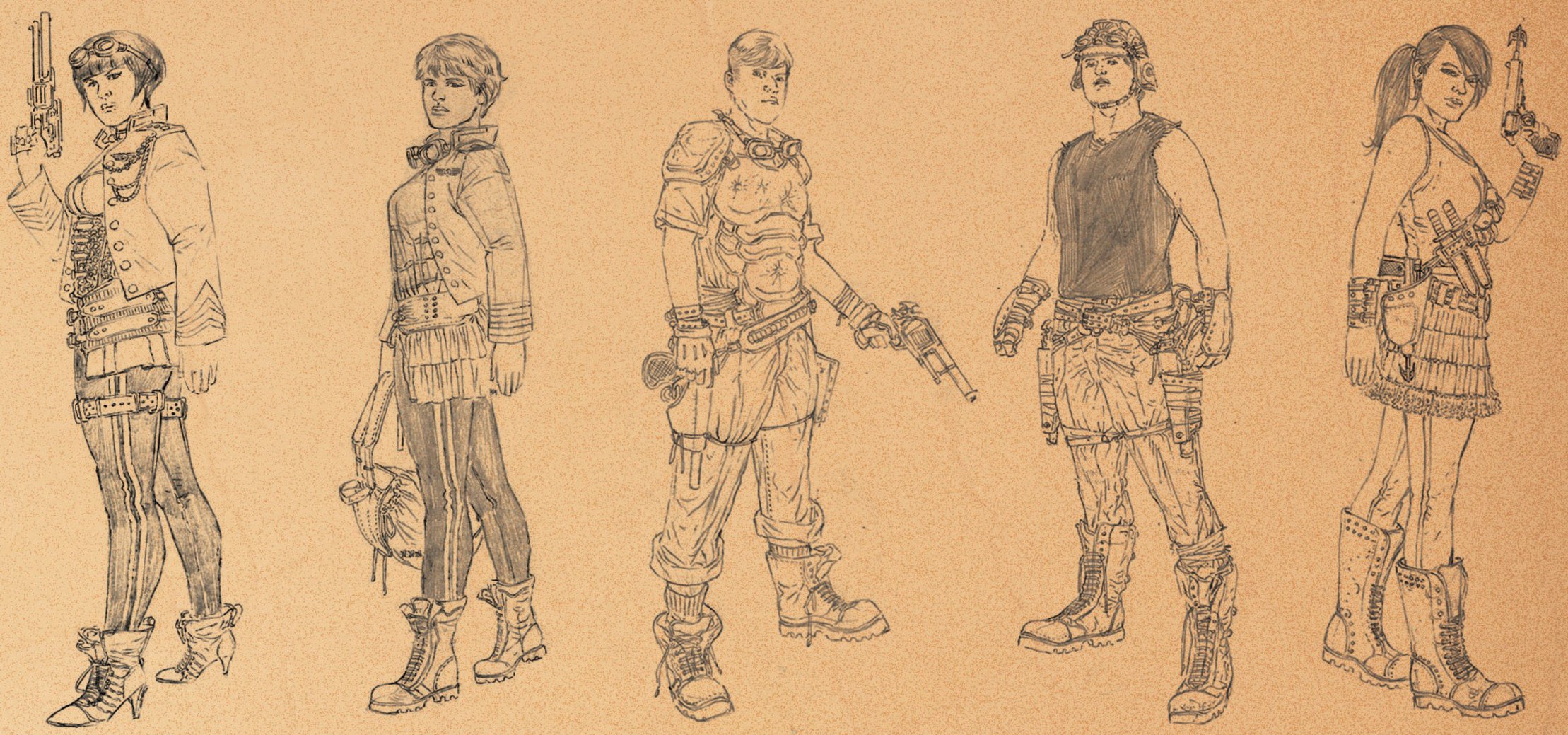
KILLIAN GREY: When I started working with the visual of Killian Grey, there was a pre-designed face, but there was not clothes. In my first approach, I saw a spoiled kid with fancy clothes. But it didn't work very well, and we had to reformulate the concept. After a long time and many layouts, I began researching royal clothes, looking for something that was timeless. I had loved the clothes, medals, and other trinkets that the Japanese emperor wore. They exuded immense respect, and worked very well for Killian Grey.





MARTHA GREY: The same happened with Martha Grey. We had her face and not her clothes. Although I have created a huge wardrobe for the character, I found it prudent to use one or two dresses. I didn't want to take the risk that the fans would ask who that character was if she changed clothes dramatically. So, I assumed that this was her uniform. I wonder what Mira Furlan, Martha Grey in the television series, must have thought when she saw her face in the pages.

LIZEL AND HER GANG: I love the design of this gang. Lizel was the most difficult to do, because my concept of the character was a dangerous and older woman. With time and a lot of talk with my editors, we concluded that Lizel should be a young girl with short hair and, in many ways, a headache for adults. With the visual of Lizel done, the concept of her gang followed the same line. Thinking of all of them, this group of characters was the most fun to do. I would have liked to have used them more times during the story.



COVER PROCESS

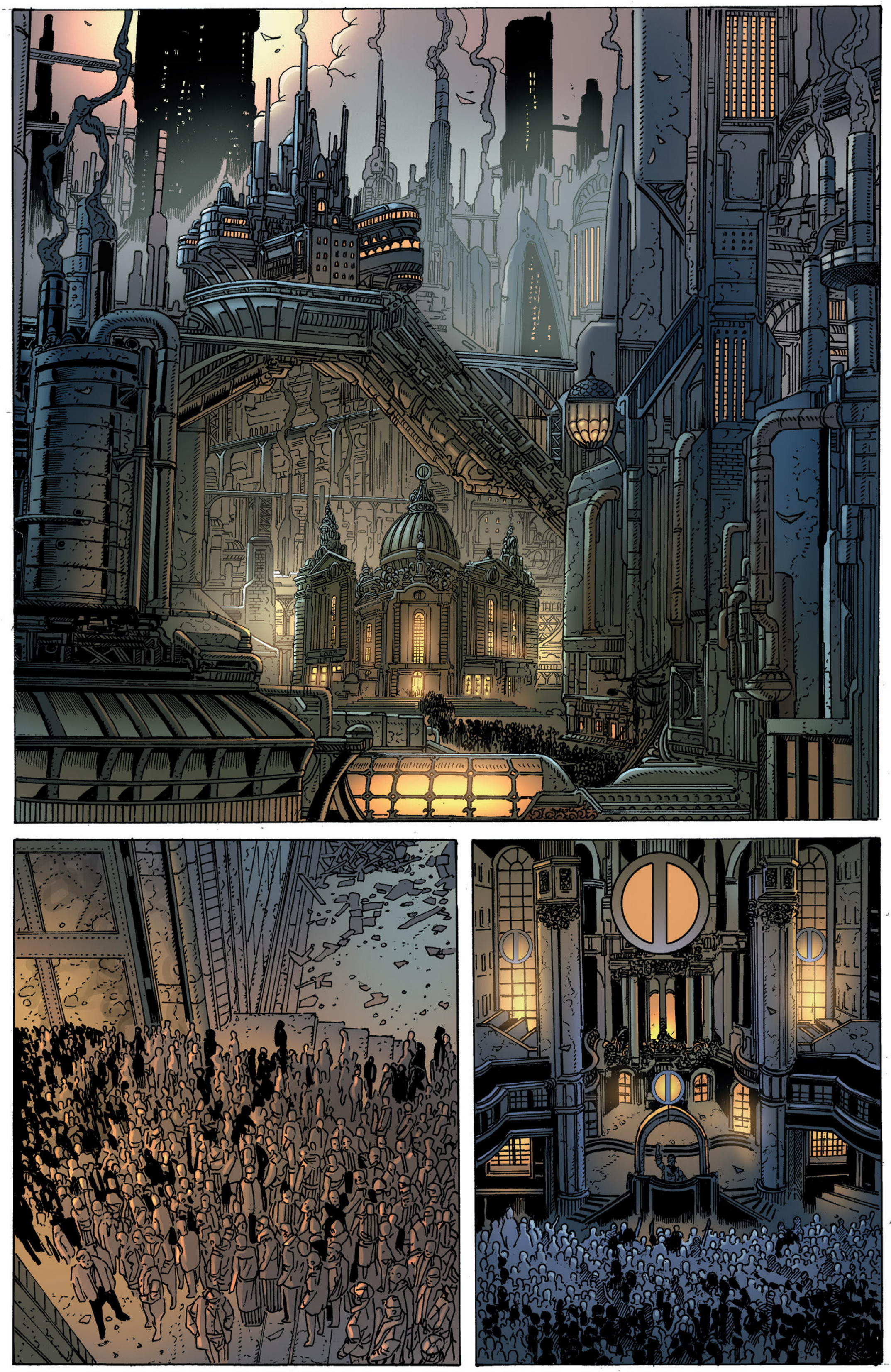
This was the first drawing I made for *Lantern City*. For me, the concept of the city that I did for the cover reflected a slightly more traditional steampunk universe compared to what I eventually did for the rest of the book. But developing the design of anything consists of the maturing of an idea. Ultimately, the art for this cover was no longer the main reference for the book, becoming only the cover for the first issue. As I've said before, the universe of *Lantern City* became much more along the lines of the approach of *Metropolis* and *Blade Runner* than something strictly steampunk. But when I think of *Lantern City*, what comes to mind is this cover.

There were only two layouts before we went to the final art.

BEHIND THE PAGE

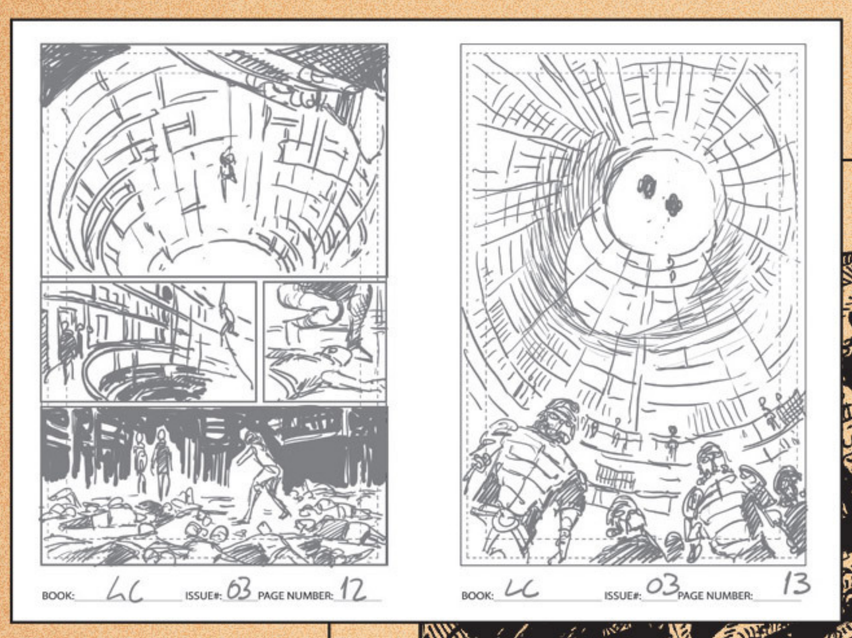
For me, to not talk about all the pages is unfair. I did more than 260 pages for *Lantern City*, and all of them have a history. I remember every one of them. But Editor Dafna Pleban and Mary have to fit it all in the final book, and it is a lot to work with. They let me speak about a few, which were a special challenge to do. So, let's go!

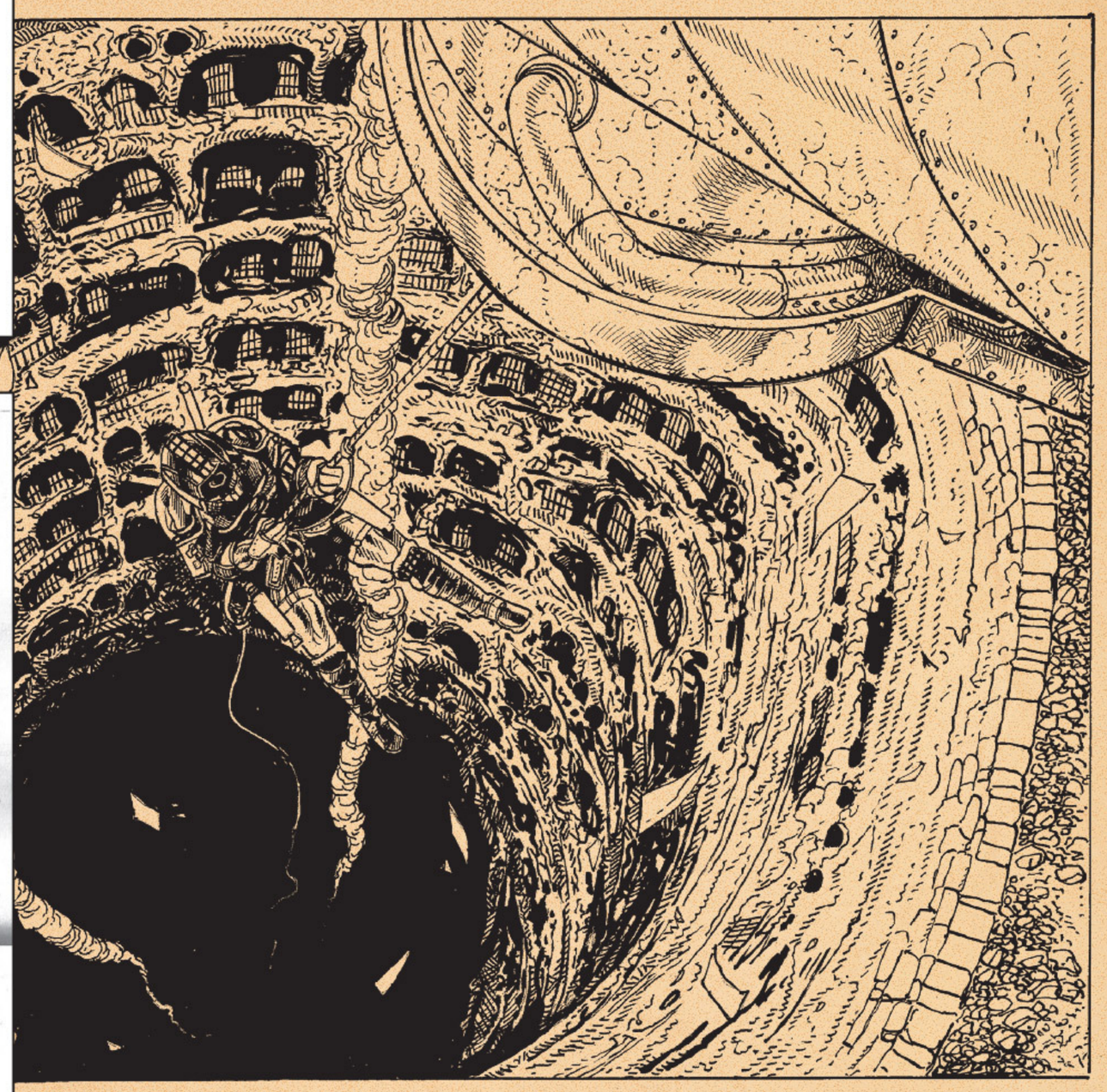
ISSUE ONE, PAGE TWELVE: The first panel of this page was certainly the most difficult to be done throughout the entire series. Not the drawing itself, but the approach that the creators wanted for this scene and the city. It was something that kept me from sleeping for two nights. I remember that for this first issue, there was a super tight schedule, and this page was delaying everything. I spent a whole night thinking about how I would do this panel. When I finally understood what was needed, I solved the problem in less than two hours…But it took days to get it.

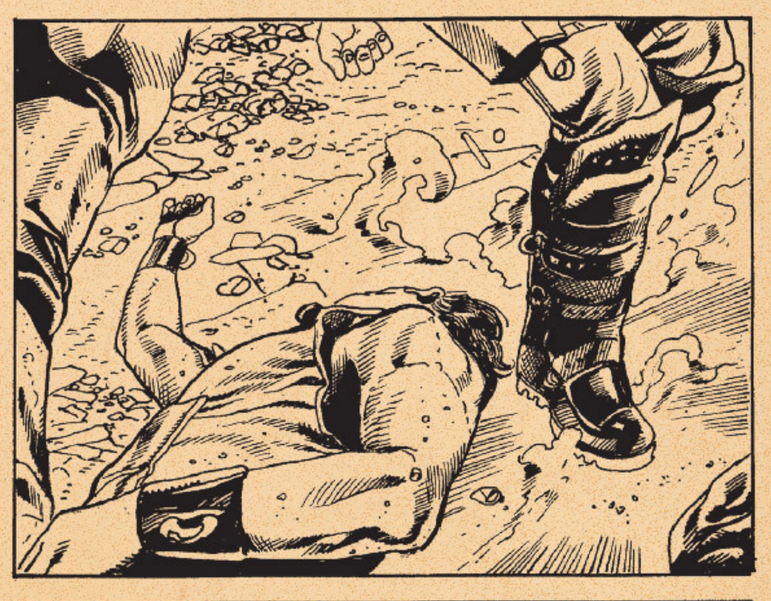


BEHIND THE PAGE

ISSUE THREE, PAGE TWELVE: I love the shadow that partially covers the hole of the Spiral and hides the horror below in panel 1. And doubtless, this was the great contribution of the whole crew of the book. The vision of Matthew Daley and Mairghread Scott was very specific, and my "tough" work was to make this a reality. The result is this: An underground prison, dark and cold, which hid scary and bloody chaos and death. The concept of living in a prison is already claustrophobic itself, but to have it in a hole ready to be covered is really terrible. It was far beyond what I expected.

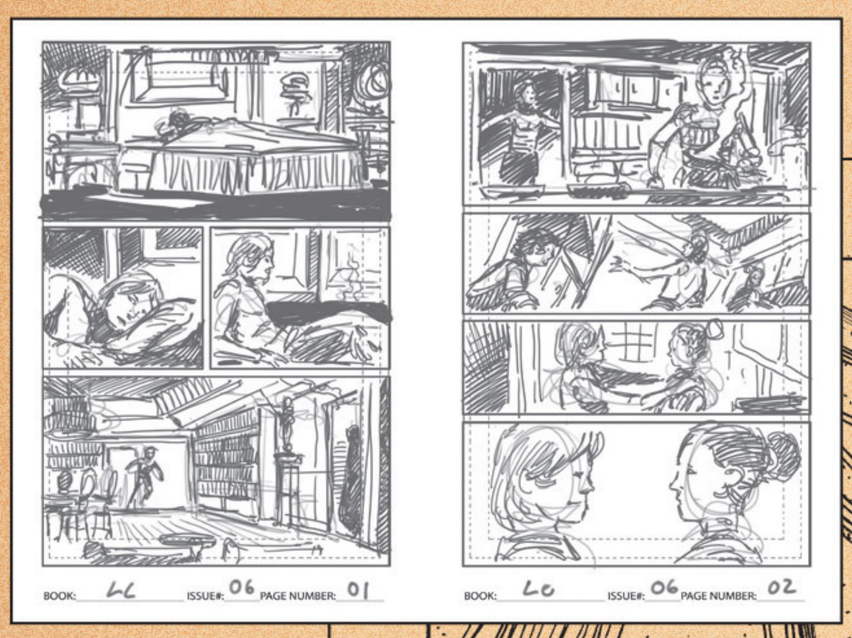


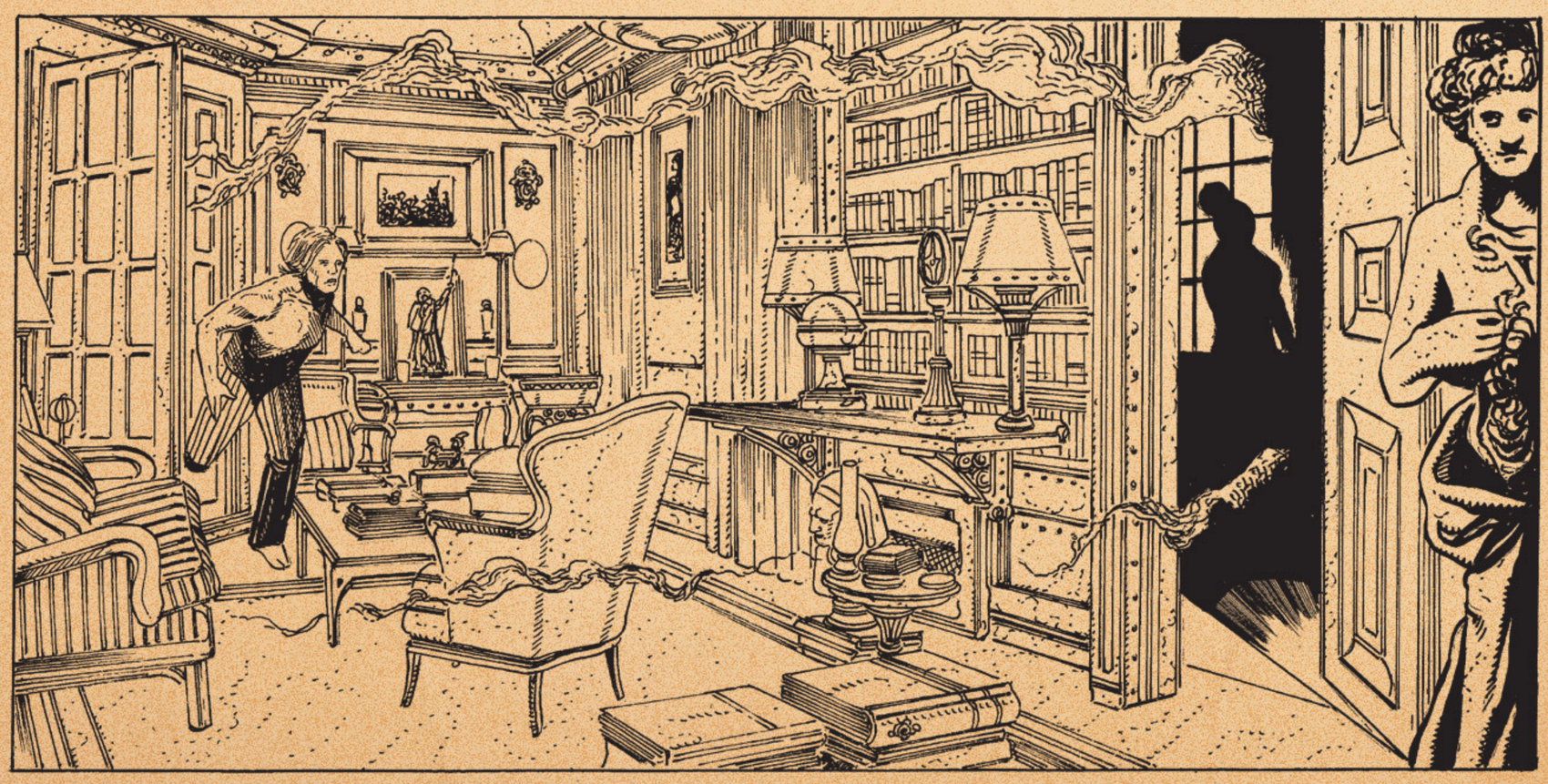




BEHIND THE PAGE

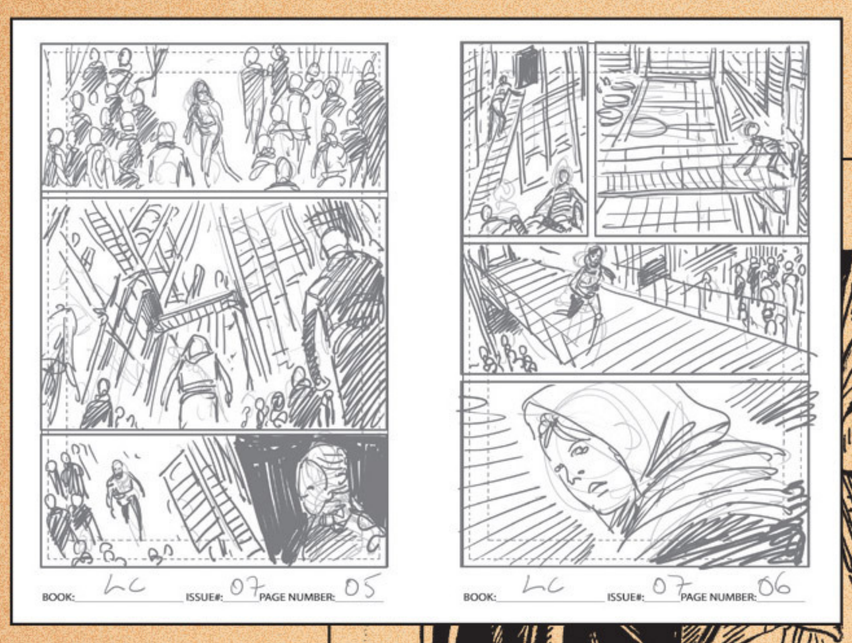
ISSUE SIX, PAGE ONE: I just love architecture, and *Lantern City* was a chance to explore this at several levels. Here we define for the first time the opulence inside the towers. It is classical architecture and perfectly fits with the universe where Killian Grey lives. At first I was afraid that our steampunk style wasn't being shown. I feared this world could lose some of its identity. But that didn't happen. Visually, the reader needs to rest the brain and see something recognizable and easily readable. The world of Killian Grey inside the towers was the visual balance of the whole book.





BEHIND THE PAGE

ISSUE SEVEN, PAGE FIVE: This is one of the places we created to contrast with the opulence of the above-ground city. In many ways, this is the true face of the city. Here we see the narrow alleys, with crowded people and structures, created to flesh out the ugly and dark side of town. Following this concept, I explored the asymmetry of the elements, causing, in a certain way, an imbalance in the city. The city acts as a botched monster, the deformed and sloppy side of the world that once used to be.



CREATOR BIOS

TREVOR CRAFTS is the creator of *Lantern City*, and is no stranger to building worlds. Winner of the LATV Festival and numerous industry awards, including an Emmy®, Trevor has spent his career creating dynamic stories with striking visuals featuring strong characters. Now CEO of Macrocosm Entertainment, he has acted as producer, writer, and director for projects *Like Experimenter* (2015), *Manson Family Vacation* (2015), *Enemy of Man* (2015), *Deep in the Heart* (2013), and *Smokewood, Nevada* (2013). You can get updates from Trevor and follow Macrocosm at www.macrocosm.tv and through Twitter @trevorcrafts.

BRUCE BOXLEITNER was cast as the lead role in Disney's cult film *TRON*, which garnered him science fiction fans worldwide. In 1994, Boxleitner joined the cast of the popular TV series *Babylon 5* as John Sheridan. Boxleitner again starred with Jeff Bridges in *TRON: Legacy*, and Boxleitner reprised his role in *TRON: Uprising* on Disney's XD TV network. The veteran actor has appeared in numerous recurring roles on TV series, including *Cedar Cove*, *GCB*, and *Heroes*, and has guest-starred on *NCIS* and *Chuck*. In 1999, Boxleitner authored *Frontier Earth* and in 2001, its sequel *Frontier Earth: Searcher*, published by The Berkley Publishing Group. Follow Bruce on Twitter @boxleitnerbruce.

MATTHEW DALEY is a screenwriter who, when asked by his grandparents at age ten what he wanted to be when he grew up, answered confidently, "a writer, historian, or comedian." He wasn't too far off, finding himself in adulthood writing for film and television (winning an Emmy® along the way). He has always been attracted to genres, especially horror and sci-fi, and recently wrote the horror movie *Flay* (2015). He wrote the *Lantern City* prequel novel *Rise* and is currently at work on the *Lantern City* comic book series. Follow Matt on Twitter @matthewjdaley.

MAIRGHREAD SCOTT is a comic book and animation writer. She has written for such books as *Marvel Universe: Guardians of the Galaxy*, *Swords Of Sorrow: Chaos*, *Transformers: Windblade*, and her first original series, *Toil And Trouble*. Her television work includes writing for the Emmy Award-winning *Transformers Prime* as well as *Rescue Bots*, *Ultimate Spider-Man: Web-Warriors*, *Transformers: Robots in Disguise*, and the upcoming *Marvel's Guardians of the Galaxy*. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and their comic book collection. You can follow her work at www.mscottwriter.com

CARLOS MAGNO is the oldest son of Zenite and Paulo Sergio, and he has two young sisters, Thaís and Fernanda. He has a degree in Fine Arts from Escola de Música e Belas Artes do Paraná, Brazil. His comic works include *Zombie Tales* (BOOM! Studios), *Captain Universe* (Marvel Comics), *The Phantom* (Moonstone Books), *Countdown*, *Green Lantern Corps*, *Cyborg* (DC Comics), as well as a two-year run on *Transformers* (IDW Publishing). His favorite works include *Planet of the Apes* with Daryl Gregory, *Deathmatch* with Paul Jenkins, *Robocop* with Josh Williamson, and currently, working on *Lantern City*. Carlos lives in Sao Jose dos Pinhais with his wife Ingret and his two children. See more of Carlos's work at his website, http://www.carlos-magno-comics.com/sobre-nos/

CHRIS BLYTHE has been a stalwart presence in the comics scene for nearly twenty years. During that time, he has been a permanent and influential contributor to 2000 AD in the UK, along with working with DC, Marvel, Dark Horse, Nintendo, and Hasbro on hundreds of titles including *Star Wars*, *Aliens*, *Action Man*, *Transformers*, and *Need for Speed*. His critically acclaimed self-published graphic novel, *Angel Fire*, was translated for the mainstream by Casterman and Carlton Books as well as being optioned to become a movie. You can see more of Chris's work by visiting http://ceebee73.deviantart.com/

DERON BENNETT is an Eisner and Harvey Award-nominated letterer, and has been providing lettering services for various comic book companies for over a decade. His body of work includes the critically acclaimed *Jim Henson's Tale of Sand*, *Jim Henson's The Dark Crystal*, *Mr. Murder is Dead*, *The Muppet Show Comic Book*, *Darkwing Duck*, and *Richie Rich*. He has also ventured into writing with his creator-owned book, *Quixote*. You can learn more about Deron by visiting his website www.andworlddesign.com or following @deronbennett on Twitter.

"...a deeply complex and rich story..."
—UPROXX, from their "Fifteen Best New Comics Of 2015"

"*Lantern City* is a fascinating place...I dare you to not become invested in this cast of characters."
—BLEEDING COOL

"This steampunk-inspired series has had me hooked since issue #1... excellent writing and beautifully illustrated...This is one of the best series going—one that consistently gets our highest ratings."
—TECH MEDIA STASH

Sander Jorve gave up everything to change Lantern City: his family, his home, even his identity. Now, with a ruthless force of outlaws rising from the Underground, an emperor gone mad, and a desperate army from beyond the Wall converging on the city, Sander will have to choose a side... if he can remember what he's fighting for. The epic saga of *Lantern City* concludes here.

Created by **Trevor Crafts** and co-created by **Bruce Boxleitner** and **Matthew Daley**, written by Daley and **Mairghread Scott** (*Transformers, Toil and Trouble*), and illustrated by **Carlos Magno** (*Planet of the Apes*, *RoboCop*), *Lantern City* explores what it takes to change a person's place in the world, all set in an original, sprawling steampunk universe.

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